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RHODE ISLAND

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PROVIDENCE  
SIDNEY S. RIDER.  
1896.

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CENTURY OF LOTTERIES

RHODE ISLAND

1744-1844

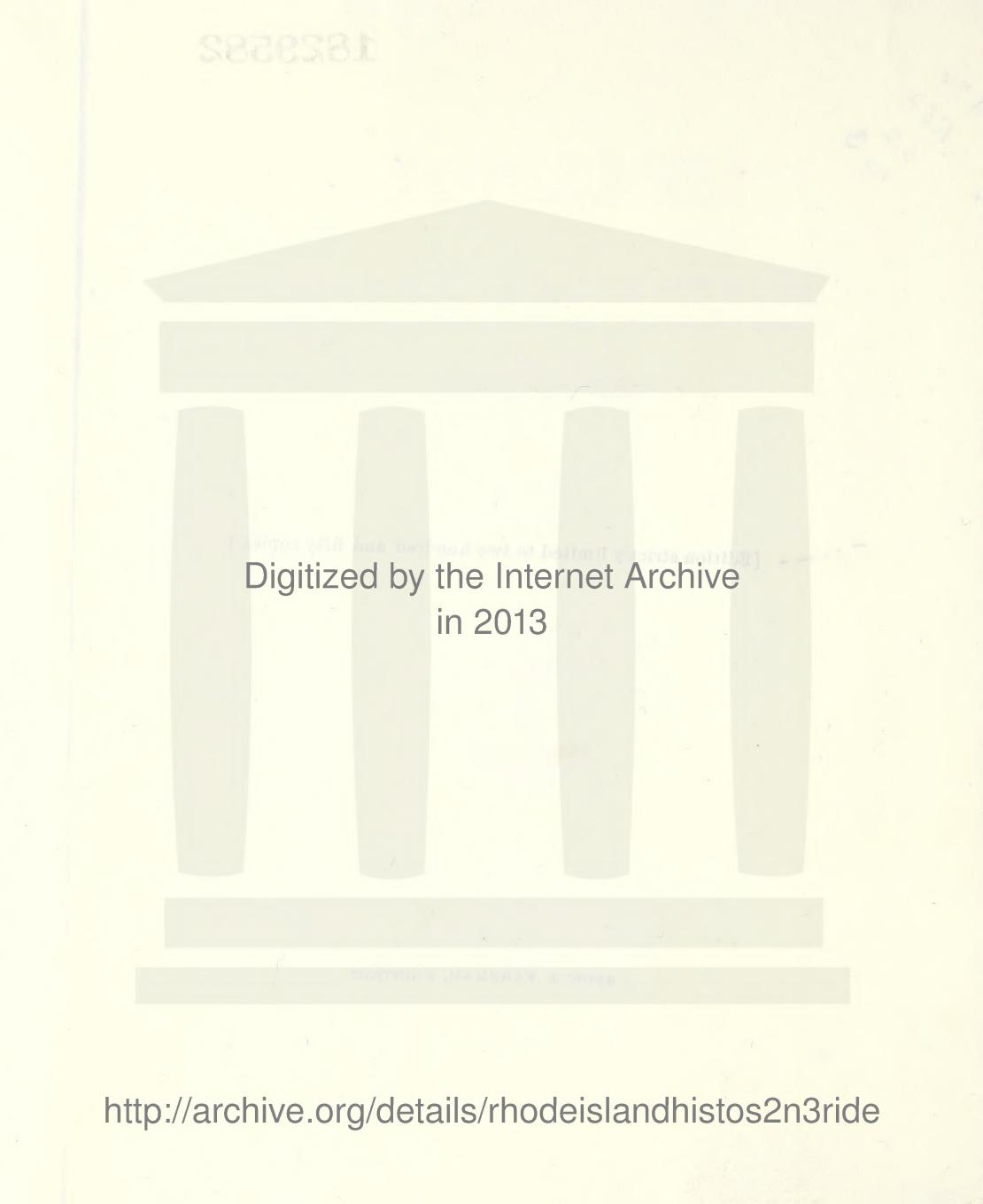
[Edition strictly limited to two hundred and fifty copies.]

JOHN H. WHITNEY  
Illustrated with Portraits of Famous Rhode Islanders

SNOW & FARNHAM, PRINTERS.

WADDEY & RINCK,

1844.

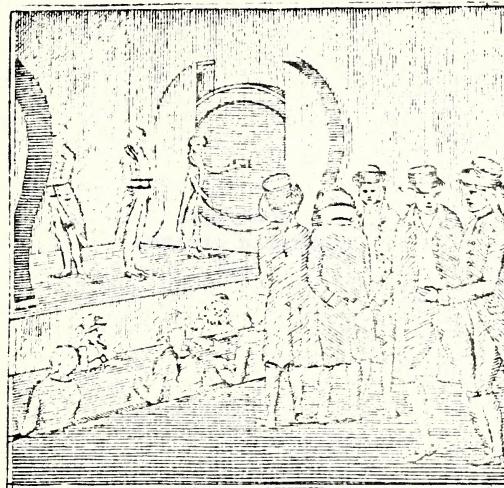


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A  
CENTURY OF LOTTERIES  
IN  
RHODE ISLAND.  
1744-1844.



BY  
JOHN H. STINESS,  
Illustrated with Fac-Similes of Tickets and Documents.

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PROVIDENCE, R. I.  
SIDNEY S. RIDER.  
1896.





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LORANIA B. RIDER.  
1896.

This paper was first read before the New-York Historical Society, when it has been materially enlarged for this series. This explains occasional reference to "this society" in the narrative.



THE PUBLISHED NOTE.

The Historical Trust has interested me in a survey historical notes, and is among the first to publish Trust which has yet appeared in this country, giving a chapter on Rhode Island history and the origin and of much interest and of great value. I have seen the notes at the library, one of which has printed, and is mentioned in the article on the author named. The author has spared no pains in giving his treatment to so thorough measure, and I trust the original in all cases, nothing whatever has been taken a second hand. The publication affords a good opportunity for the study of Rhode Island's early history, and, checking his facts, to all of whom a really ad-imperative error in the facts. A number of the quarian legends are given by the introduction. It bears fac-similes of Tickets, from the first Tickets ever issued in Rhode Island, that of 1744, down to the end. These fac-similes have been introduced for the purpose of showing the methods of selling, and of buying, letting, against the chances, buying, by one up to, part ownership in the results, method of accounting, the action of State officers, etc., etc. Other fac-similes were intro-

This paper was first read before the R. I. Historical Society, since when it has been materially enlarged for this series. This explains occasional reference to "this society" in the narrative.



## PUBLISHER'S NOTE.

THE historical Tract here presented is a purely historical essay, and is among the most important Tracts which has yet appeared in this series. It covers a chapter in Rhode Island history not hitherto written, and of much interest and of great value. There have been two attempts at this history, one of which was printed, and is mentioned in the bibliography hereunto annexed. The author has spared no labor in making his researches in a thorough manner, and which are original in all cases — nothing whatever has been taken at a second hand. The publisher himself verified Judge Stiness's copy, until, finding no error, he tired; there is really no important error in the Essay. A curious antiquarian interest is given by the introduction of many fac-similes of Tickets, from the first Ticket ever issued in Rhode Island, that of 1744, down to the end. Other fac-similes have been introduced for the purpose of showing the methods of selling, and of buying, betting against the chances, buying by time notes, joint ownership in the results, method of accounting, the action of State officers, etc., etc. Other fac-similes were intro-



duced because of some interest in the autographs; for instance, one ticket is endorsed on the back—a receipt for a prize by Samuel Butler, the first comer into Rhode Island of the family now forming the Butler-Duncan Land Company. Samuel Butler was the father of Cyrus Butler. Another ticket has a curious endorsement by Jonah Titus, who was a historical character of the times of the Dorr war. It is a most perfect characterization. Another is endorsed in joint ownership by Jacob Whitman; he was the owner of the renowned Turk's Head, the name still given to a local landmark. The title page has a curious representation of a wheel in the process of drawing. This picture was taken for a little book published in Philadelphia, in 1807. Neither time, trouble, nor expense has been spared in attempting to make this little Tract exhaustive of the subject. For this purpose, an exposition of Schemes, written by Mr. Thomas Doyle, has been added, and certain laws, those connected with the School Fund lotteries, have been introduced.

During the earlier years of lotteries, the best men in the Colony were connected with these enterprises; among religious sects, the Quakers alone, were not participants. Individual Quakers were sometimes parties;



for instance, Moses Brown ; and in the end nearly everything, and almost everybody, was swept into the vortex—the University, the Historical Society, the State itself. Not a newspaper contains a word against the evil — for it was an unmixed evil — not even in a communication. This can only be accounted for by the fact that large sums were always paid these newspapers for advertising the schemes, and their columns were thus kept closed. Men were deluded, or did not reflect. Even Judge Staples, writing in 1842, used this expression : “A system out of which so much good, and so much evil has arisen ;” and this was written two years subsequently to the great indictment written by Prof. William G. Goddard, which forms a part of this Tract. As a matter of fact, can Judge Staples strike a balance between the good, and the evil? Surely not. Only the Deity can do that. One, or the other, must preponderate ; but even if some good might result, it would not compensate for the evil. A highwayman robs you of a hundred dollars. It is bad. The highwayman gives fifty cents to a starving woman. It is good. But it was your money. Does the good counterbalance the bad? Surely not. There is a loose screw in such ethics. The Constitution of 1842 prohibited the granting of lotteries, but the sale of tickets



was not prohibited until 1844. No more lotteries were ever granted, but ticket selling still went on, and actually more tickets were printed here in Providence than had ever before been printed. Charters were obtained in other States, Delaware or Maryland, but the tickets were printed here, and all the business was done here, chiefly by one firm, of which the head was Mr. Daniel Paine. The tickets were all printed by Messrs. Knowles, Vose & Co., the publishers of the Providence *Journal*. Under the slow process of printing then practiced, the presses of this firm were run day and night, as occasion required, and you will search the columns of the *Journal* in vain for anything in support of Prof. Goddard's admirable petition, or anything against the terrible iniquity. The *Journal* was "in it." In the bibliography hereunto annexed mention is made of a series of articles upon lotteries published by the *Journal*. These articles have no historical value; they have neither beginning, nor ending, and there is no thoroughness in them. They were prepared by Mr. John R. Bartlett, but there is one thing connected with them so characteristic that I reproduce it. It occurs at the close of the Fourth Article, (November 17, 1856.) The *Journal* editorially said: "We resume the publication in our columns to-day



of the history of Lotteries in Rhode Island, by which it will be seen that there was scarcely a Church or Religious Society in the State which did not at some period of its existence derive advantage from them, however shocking it may now appear. Some societies built their churches with money raised through lottery grants, others received assistance after their own means had been exhausted, while others merely used the money so raised to build steeples 'which would tend greatly to the ornament of the Town where the steepleless churches stood,' to set up clocks 'for the convenience of the market people,' or otherwise expend it in similar superfluities."

The *Journal* owners had been printing tickets by the million. Mr. Thomas Doyle says in his little treatise, that the numbers which would draw, or be likely to draw capital prizes, were often never printed. This fact has also been told to me by a printer, still living, who actually printed the tickets here in Providence. The effect of Prof. Goddard's first petition was the Constitutional prohibition. The effect of his second memorial, was the enactment of a law prohibiting the buying or selling of lottery tickets. (*Digest of 1844: p. 422.*) Nevertheless the business continued contraband of law, and the Directory of 1854 gives the name



of Daniel Paine, a *Broker*, and Clark Dalrymple, *Exchange Broker*, (whose memorial adorns Roger Williams Park,) and Bennett W. Wheeler, *Exchange Office*, and Philip Case, *Broker*, and Henry G. Carpenter, *Exchange Office*, and Antonio L. Crout, *Exchange Broker*, and how many others I do not know. The sole business of these men was the sale of Lottery Tickets, a business then unlawful, but by means of which they all acquired wealth ; some of them acquired very great wealth.

Lest men may think that the Lottery business pertained particularly to Rhode Island, the publisher reproduces a couple of paragraphs from McMaster's *History of the People of the United States*, Vol. I.; p. 587, thus :

“ Taxes the people would not bear ; to issue bonds would have been useless ; the authorities could not have insured the interest on them for a week ; help was sought in a means now universally condemned, and abandoned to church fairs and gamblers ; lotteries sprang up, and in a short time there was a wheel in every city and in every town large enough to boast of a court house and a jail. Whenever a clumsy bridge was to be thrown across a little stream, a public building enlarged, a school house built, a street paved, a road



AUTHORITIES USED IN WRITING THIS  
TRACT.

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## A CENTURY OF LOTTERIES IN RHODE ISLAND.

The origin of lotteries is quite obscure. As an expedient for raising money they came into vogue in Genoa, Florence and Venice in the sixteenth century; in France in the seventeenth century, where they were used in aid of the public finances; and in England in the sixteenth century, where they were first used in aid of public works. The earliest knowledge of their existence in Rhode Island comes from an act of the General Assembly, passed in January, 1732-3, for their suppression; from which it appears that they were already in vogue here, as individual enterprises, without authority from the colony. The title and preamble of the act are as follows:

“AN ACT FOR SUPPRESSING OF LOTTERIES.

"WHEREAS there has been set up, within this government, certain unlawful games called Lotteries, whereby unwary people have been led into a foolish expense of money, which may tend to the great hurt of this government, if not timely prevented. For remedy whereof" it was enacted that no lottery, after April 30, 1733,



should be drawn, played or thrown at, "by dice, lotts, cards, balls or any other numbers or figures," under a penalty of five hundred pounds. "And for the more effectual suppressing said lotteries after the thirtieth day of Aprill all Justices, Judges, Sheriffs, Constables and all other officers within their respective jurisdictions are hereby impowered and required to suppress and discountenance the same."

Notwithstanding that this act remained unrepealed and appeared in the digest of 1744, in that year an act was passed "allowing a lottery of fifteen thou-

THIS TICKET, No. 662 shall  
 entitle the Possessor thereof, to any  
 Prize drawn against said Number, in the  
 LOTTERY allow'd by AS of Assembly,  
 for building Weyboset Bridge at Prov-  
 662 dence. Witness our Hands and Seal at  
 Providence, Nov. 13. 1744.  
 Stephen Hopkins } For the Directors.

sand pounds for building a bridge over Woboset River at Providence." A committee was appointed and a scheme set forth for 1,002 prizes, amounting to £12,000, out of 5,000 tickets at £3 O. T. each; thus leaving £3,000, as the profit. After much contradictory legis-



lation the committee were directed to go on and build the bridge, not exceeding the £3,000. This was the beginning of authorized lotteries in Rhode Island.

Cynical people have sometimes said that Providence can have no public benefit without the claim for an equivalent on the part of Newport; but, however this may be, it is interesting to note that the next lottery, granted in February, 1747-8, was for paving the streets of Newport, "more especially the street leading to the Colony House." There were to be 10,000 tickets at £8 O. T. each; amounting to £80,000; of which 6,649 were to be blanks and 3,351 prizes, leaving £10,000 for the paving.

It is of course impossible, within the compass of the present paper, to give a detailed account of all the lotteries which were granted in this State; but abstracts of them have been made, going through the schedules page by page. Having already seen how, following the example of England, the start had been made in behalf of public improvements, we can only follow the details enough to see to what extent the system grew in this line; how nearly all the burdens of a public, charitable and religious nature were remitted to this system for their accomplishment; how the lottery ticket became a substitute for the tax receipt; how contributors to charity and religion cast their bread upon the waters hoping to find it before many days; how, gradually, on some plea of public advantage, real or fancied, the private



need and personal benefit came to be served ; and then how public purposes again monopolized the system until finally it went down. The history is full of pictures of the times ; of local developments ; of interesting circumstances and of instructive moral.

The third lottery granted was in January, 1748-9. Joseph Fox, Scrivener of Newport, who had been confined in jail about two years for a debt of about £3,000, was granted a lottery of £32,000 —  $\frac{1}{8}$  to be reserved—to extricate him “from those deplorable circumstances.” There were 8,000 tickets at £4 each—2,080 prizes and 5,920 blanks.

The petition of Mr. Fox, which does not appear in the *Colonial Records* printed by the State, but is to be found only in the *Acts and Resolves* of the General Assembly, is sufficiently curious to be reproduced. Mr. Fox relates that he has “for almost two years last past been confined in His Majesty’s Goal in Newport, for one debt only, which, amounting to near Three Thousand Pounds, he is altogether unable to pay, and which moreover ought in justice to be paid out of the estate of the late John Gridley, Esq.; that he has nothing but his pen to maintain himself, his wife, and several children ; that his earnings are but trifling (as he is confined) compared to what they might be if he had his liberty; and that it is next to an impossibility for him to extricate himself out of these deplorable circumstances without relief from the Assembly, whereupon he humbly prays that a Lottery may be set on foot &c.”



John Gridley, Esq., was a Judge of the Admiralty Court at Newport in 1742.

In February, 1749-50, the accounts of the directors of the lottery for Weybosset Bridge were reported and audited, showing the cost of the Bridge to be £1,610-7-4 and a balance in their hands of £1,389-12-8.

At the same session, upon representation that the "great bridge at Pawtuxet Falls" was much decayed and "much used by the inhabitants as well as other travellers, and the Post," a lottery was ordered of 6,000 tickets at £4 each, "1,652 of which to be fortunate" and subject to a deduction of 10% for building a "new bridge with stone abutments at each end and a stone cage in the middle of the river, which will be durable and last a long while, with but little charge to maintain it afterwards." In June, 1750, the time for "filling up," this lottery was "lengthened out to the third Monday in July next."

At this session Col. Joseph Pendleton, of Westerly, having lost a vessel and cargo of rum and molasses without insurance, "by which heavy stroke of Providence" he was unable to pay his debts, prayed that he might set up a part of his real estate in that town in a lottery of £26,000. The land was divided into 124 lots, none less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  a., and there were 1,460 money prizes amounting to £15,636. Among other reasons it was urged by the petitioner that it would tend to public advantage if this land was settled by a town, as it was near the mouth and



on the navigable part of Pawcatuck river, "where there is plenty of oysters and other fish to be taken at all times in the year and plenty of stone and brick, with good timber, suitable for building vessels and houses, near to be had very plenty." The village of Lotteryville, between Westerly and Watch Hill, is the monument of this venture.

In August, 1750, the committee to settle the accounts of Joseph Fox's lottery report that after paying his debt, the prizes and expenses, a balance of £406-14-8 remained, and they were directed to pay this into the General Treasury. This is the first case in which the Colony received any of the profits or proceeds of a lottery. At this same session the bond of the directors of the Weybosset Bridge lottery was ordered to be put in suit.

In October, 1750, a lottery was granted of £26,700 with deduction of ten *per cent.* for a bridge over Pawtucket River, at or near David Whipple's land in Cumberland. The preamble recites that there is "a large number of the inhabitants of Cumberland, Attleborough, Wrentham and Bellingham, to whom Providence is the market town, whither they carry almost all they have to sell; and that there is a large river runs between the first mentioned towns and the town of Providence, so large that at most times in the year it is not favorable for teams or horses, by means whereof the inhabitants of all said towns are very greatly incommoded, &c."



In March, 1750, a committee was appointed to re-examine the account of Stephen Hopkins, director of the Weybosset Bridge lottery, concerning a dispute of ninety pounds, and upon settlement of the same with him to discontinue a suit brought against him on that account.

At the August Session, 1751, the committee to audit the accounts of the "Patuxit Lottery" report as to the charges of building the bridge that they find them right cast and well vouched," leaving a balance due to the Colony of £96-9-10.

In February, 1752, the committee to audit the accounts of the lottery for building a bridge over Pawtucket River, having "perpetrated" that business, make report showing an expenditure by them of £529-14-2 over the amount raised by the lottery.

The time for drawing the lottery for paving the streets of Newport having expired, it is revived with the provision "that the street from the Colony-House to the Long Wharff be first paved and Thames Street next."

In August, 1752, the report of Col. Pendleton's lottery showed that £783-12 was due to the Colony. By a vote in October, 1754, it appears that he gave bond for this amount payable in one year with interest and then upon payment of one-half he was allowed to retain the balance for another year.

A lottery of £10,000 was also granted to the directors of the Pawtucket River Bridge lottery to reimburse them for the amount they expended over the proceeds of the



lottery "and for compleating said Bridge" with the usual ten *per cent.* deduction for the purpose.

In June, 1753, a lottery of £30,000 was granted "to compleat the Court House in the county of Kent, erect a fence round the Prison Yard in said county and for the Bridge in Scituate and that called Hunt's Bridge." At the October session, and again in February and October, 1754, the time for drawing this lottery was "lengthen'd out." At the latter session the directors were ordered to refund the money for tickets purchased if it was not drawn by the last Monday in May next.

The directors of Joseph Fox's lottery not having paid over the balance due the Colony, the General Treasurer was directed to demand it and sue for it, if necessary. It appears that suit was brought, for in October, 1755, a committee was appointed to audit Col. John Gardner's account and upon his paying the balance due to withdraw the suit. At the same time an account of Job Randal for printing the tickets of the Kent County lottery, &c., was ordered to be paid.

In August, 1756, a committee was appointed to prepare a bill for a lottery to "be set up by the Colony for raising the sum of £10,000 to carry on the Building of Fort George." The committee subsequently reported a scheme for two drawings of £50,000 each and the act was passed. At the next session the directors were indemnified from all damages by fire, from the enemy, by receiving counterfeit bills, or any other extraordinary

preamble to the act relates that "Whereas, Resolv-



casualty. The Kent County lottery seems to have met with ill success, for in October, 1756, £100 was allowed to Job Randal for his services in issuing one-third of the tickets and in receiving them back. In the same month the drawing of the Fort George lottery was postponed, and again in November, when "for the encouragement of adventurers" the Colony voted to take 500 tickets.

At the January Session, 1757, the time was still further extended to Feb. 21, 1757, the money to be refunded to purchasers of tickets if the lottery should not then be drawn. In March, 1757, the directors were directed to pay the "neat produce of the lottery into the General Treasury."

In June, 1759, a grant was made to raise \$2,400 towards erecting a Mason's Hall in Newport; also to raise \$2,000 towards building a court house in Providence and purchasing a library.



#### FREEMASONS-HALL-LOTTERY.

THE Possessor of this Billet [No. 2052] shall be intitled to any Prize drawn against said Number, in a Lottery granted by an Act of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Colony of Rhode-Island, in June, 1759: Subject to no Deduction. H

*Benj. Mason*

This "Mason's" Hall was a Free Mason's Hall. The preamble to the act relates that "Whereas, Robert



Jenkins, Jr., *Master*, John Mawdsfly and Samuel Brenton, *Wardens*, and the Chief of the Society of the Free and Accepted Masons of Newport, with sundry persons inhabitants of this Colony have represented unto this Assembly, that the said town hath no building sufficiently large and commodious for public entertainment, where the Governor and Council, or General Assembly may occasionally meet and dine; and where any of His Majesty's Governors, or other officers may be publicly entertained as they pass through this government." These gentlemen further represented that "finding their Fund unequal to the expence they prayed for a lottery may be opened in order to raise Twenty four hundred dollars for carrying on, and compleating the proposed building." The scheme was to sell four thousand tickets, at four dollars each, thus realizing \$16,000; and to give 1,113 prizes and 2,887 blanks amounting in the aggregate to \$13,600, thus leaving the \$2,400 required. "This building shall serve and be improved for the Celebration of all publick Feasts and Entertainments as they may occasionally happen in which the Governor and Council of this Colony, or the General Assembly thereof may be immediately concerned, but for no other use or purpose whatsoever, without the consent or leave of the said Society of Free and Accepted Masons. Forasmuch as it may happen that disputes and controversies may arise from time to time, as well about the building and repairing of the said House as the regulation and gov-



ernment thereof it is necessary that the said Society have a name in Law," and so the first Lodge of Free Masons was incorporated in the Colony of Rhode Island (Acts and Resolves, June, 1759, pages 16-18.) The name given above as *Mawdsly*, was thus incorrectly printed in the Colonial Records, v. 6, p. 209. In the *Acts and Resolves*, cited herein, it appears Mawdsly. This act marks the beginning of the use of the term "Dollar" in legislative enactments; the use of the term in connection with the "Paper Money" or Bills of Credit began in September, 1776. (*R. I. Hist. Tract, 1st ser. No. 8, p. 105.*)

The lottery for a "Court House" and the "purchasing of a library" referred to in a preceding paragraph under June, 1759, had special reference to the burning of the Court (or Colony) House in Providence in December, 1758, at which "a very valuable collection of books were consumed by fire in the night of the 24th of December last, which Collection of Books belonged to a number of persons in the said Town, and in other towns in the County of Providence." One thousand dollars was for "the use of a Court House" and the "other thousand to be expended and laid out for the purchasing of a collection of books to be ever kept in the said town." This collection of books was to be free of access always to members of the General Assembly, but the ownership was in the proprietors of the public library (*Col. Rec. v. 6 p. 215.*

In June, 1758, Handley Chipman, of Newport, repre-



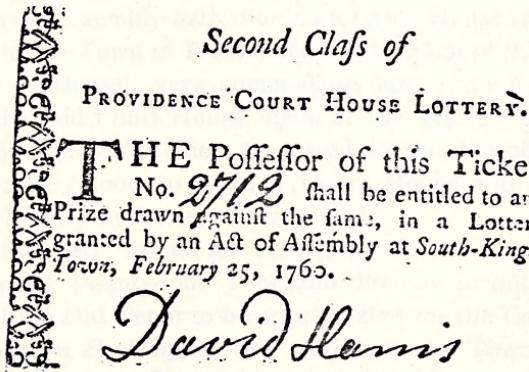
sented that he had purchased a large lot of land at the south end of the Town of Newport with a small house thereon, and had erected a "Still House, Soap House, Cooper's Shop, Ware House, Joiner's Shop, Chaise House and Stable, which involved him considerably in Debt: Nevertheless, he had Hopes to clear himself speedily by his Business, and probably should have done it, had not War come on, which has in a great Measure broke up the Business of Distilling and greatly injured almost every other Trade. This put the Petitioner upon endeavoring to find out another Way to clear himself of his Difficulties: That a Voyage presented, in which he thought there was a good Prospect of effecting it; and accordingly he went to Sea, but was unfortunately taken by the Enemy, and lost all he had with him, which was pretty considerable; So that instead of bettering his Circumstances, he became plunged deeper in Debt, and now hath no way to extricate himself, but by selling his Estate. And as no Person, who will give any Thing near the Value of it, presents to purchase," he prayed for a lottery of £30,000. It is needless to add that such a pathetic petition was granted.

In February, 1760, a lottery to raise 1,200 "Mill'd Dollars" to the Proprietors of the Providence Library to re-establish the library which had been destroyed when the Court House in Providence was burnt, was granted, "as the Re-establishing of the aforesaid Library is of a



Public Nature, tending to promote virtue and the good of Mankind," and in the following May the time for drawing and selling tickets was "shortened." This library was in the council chamber in the old State House on Meeting street, which was burned Dec. 24, 1758, as before stated.

The preamble set forth that at the fire "almost all the books and papers of which the said Library was composed were with the Bookcases destroyed." There were



to be 6,000 tickets at \$2 each with \$10,800 in prizes, leaving \$1,200 for the library. Any person not a proprietor purchasing 60 tickets was to be entitled to full right with the former proprietors, and all tickets remaining unsold at the expiration of the time limited for the sale were to be divided among all the members of the library. Every member who should neglect or refuse to



take his proportion of the tickets so left was to be "forever excluded and have no Right, Benefit or Interest in the said Library." When the present State House was built in 1761, the library was again established in the Senate Chamber.

At the same February Session an act was passed "for raising \$1,000 by a Lottery in order to purchase a certain Lot of Land in the Town of Providence whereon to erect a Court House," with the following preamble: "Whereas the General Assembly hath ordered a Court House to be erected in the Town of Providence, where a Lot of Land may be purchased, very commodious and suitable for setting the said Court House upon, at the price of One Thousand Dollars." The act passed in the preceding June to raise \$2,000 to build a Court House and purchase a Library by lottery was repealed.

Next followed "An act for raising by Way of Lottery the Sum of Twenty-four Thousand Pounds in Bills of Credit of the Old Tenor to be appropriated for the Erecting a *handsom Building*, of two stories in the Town of *Newport*; the lower Part to be appropriated for a "*Market House forever*." The preamble to this act is sufficiently curious to be reproduced entire. "Whereas Meso'rs Henry Collins, Josias Lyndon and Henry Ward in behalf of themselves and others the Proprietors of Long Wharf in the town of Newport, prepared a Petition and represented unto this Assembly that the said Proprietors being sensible of the general benefit that would

In December, 1760, the General Assembly enacted



accrue unto the said town from a convenient well situated Market House, and taking also into consideration the great advantage the Poor of the Town would in an especial manner reap from a public Grainary, did at this meeting holden on the 20th day of the current month, pass a vote as followeth to wit: "That the lot of land in Newport belonging to the Proprietors being in front upon Thames street 38 feet, and extending from said street westerly 50 feet, be and it is hereby granted to the Town of Newport for erecting thereon a handsom building, the lower part to be appropriated for a Market House forever, and to no other use whatsoever, unless it shall be found convenient to improve some part of it for a Watch House; and that the upper part of said building be made into convenient stores for Dry Goods, and let out to the best advantage; and that all the Rents thereof, together with all other profits that shall arise on said building shall be lodged in the Town Treasury to be applied to purchasing Grain as a perpetual Fund for supplying a public Grainary for the use of the Town." A lottery was thereupon asked for £24,000 Old Tenor, whereupon "This Assembly being desirous to countenance and encourage so laudable a design" granted the Lottery (*Acts and Resolves, February, 1760.*) There were 6,600 tickets at 6 Pounds O. T. each; 1,865 tickets were prizes and 4,735 tickets were Blanks. Six pounds, Old Tenor, was equal in 1760 to one silver dollar.

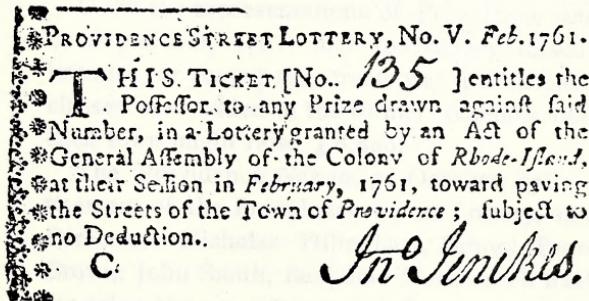
In December, 1760, the General Assembly enacted a



law to empower Directors of Lotteries to call special courts. This law was retroactive in that it applied to all Lotteries already granted as well as to those which might hereafter be granted. The law was restricted to those Lotteries which were to raise money for public use; and the power was the same as that with which Vendue Masters, or Auctioneers were endowed. These special courts consisted of any three of the Judges of the Superior Court; and the suits were for the collection of money due for tickets or prizes.

The directors of the lottery for purchasing a lot for the Court House in Providence were authorized to set forth a third class, similar to the other two, the proceeds of which were insufficient for the purpose.

In February, 1761, on the petition of inhabitants of



Newport, a lottery for paving the lower end of Thames Street, which was "very muddy and miry," was granted, the paving "beginning at the house of Abraham Red-



Johnson wood, Esq., and continuing until the whole of said money  
the ~~the~~ shall be expended."

A similar lottery for paving in Providence was also granted in three classes, to pave from the Bridge up town; from the Bridge down town and from the Bridge Westward over Weybosset Neck as far as the net proceeds of the respective classes would allow. At the same session a scheme was granted for the turning of one branch of the Pawcatuck River into the large pond in Charlestown in order thereby to keep open the communication of said pond with the sea, "so that small vessels at all Times could with Ease and Conveniency pass from and into said Pond," which would be of great advantage to the inhabitants in getting to market and "in carrying on the Codfishery and so forth."

Upon the representations of Providence and Newport in September, 1761, that the money raised from the lotteries for paving the streets was insufficient, additional classes were added to the former schemes out of which each town might raise £6,000.

The Providence *Gazette*, 30 October, 1762, has advertisement of the Providence Street Lottery, signed by the Directors—Nicholas Tillinghast, Benoni Pearce, Moses Brown, John Smith, Benjamin Mann, each having tickets for sale; the same Paper, 1st January, 1763, gives a list of the Fortunate numbers, signed by Nicholas Tillinghast and Moses Brown.

In October, 1761, a lottery was granted to build in



Johnston a "Meeting House for Public Worship, free for the BAPTIST SOCIETY of the *Ancient Order*, in the said Place, of the Dimensions of Forty Feet long and Thirty Feet wide."

The Directors of the MARKET and GRANARY Lottery in Newport, vacancies in which were filled at this session, represented that as so many lotteries were in progress they were unable to sell the tickets of their fourth class; they were therefore authorized to buy in all tickets unsold at the time of the drawing on account of the building; if prizes were drawn on such tickets amounting to more than the cost, the excess was to go to the building; and if less the deficiency was to be made up out of the money already raised by the lottery. The Directors were also empowered to pursue the same course in the future classes of said lottery and to add as many classes as would raise a sufficient sum to complete the building.

Another petition was from residents of Cumberland that "a great Number of Fish of several Kinds" coming up Seaconck River are obstructed by Pawtucket Falls from passing further up, "there being nothing above them to prevent their passage to the Head of the said River, which extends in one of its Branches almost one hundred Miles back into the country; That some Trials having been lately made to break down the said Falls, it is thought by a Number of Gentlemen of Knowledge that a Passage may be made at the expense of £1,000



O. T. so that Fish of almost every Kind who choose Fresh Water at certain seasons of the Year, may pass with Ease." A lottery was therefore granted for that purpose, any surplus to go to maintaining Pawtucket Bridge.

At the March session, 1762, a batch of lotteries were granted, viz: For a workhouse in Kent County for paupers capable of earning a portion of their support;

*Providence Street Lottery; No. 363.*

THIS Ticket [No. 363] entitlēs  
the Possessor to any Prize drawn against its  
Number, in a Lottery granted by the General  
Assembly of the Colony of Rhode Island, in March,  
if demanded within Six Months.

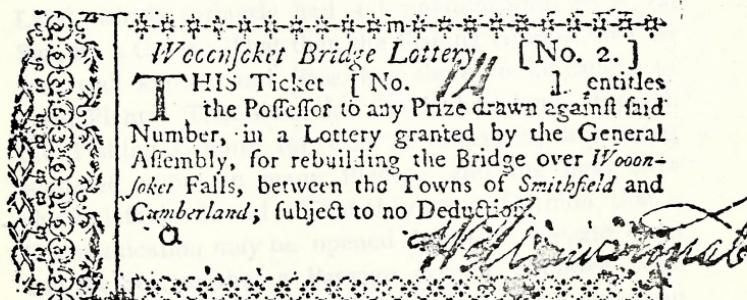
*N. Tillinghast.*

for repairing a highway in the town of Providence; for paving in the North End of the town of Providence; for repairing the church of the Church of England in Providence "and building a new steeple, which, if properly finished, will not only be an advantage to the Building, but an Ornament to the Town;" for additional classes to the lottery previously granted for paving in the "three districts" of Providence. The petition of W. & H. Wall, of North Kingstown, representing that they were "almost utterly ruined by the late fire in Newport, " which con-



sum'd great Quantities of Merchandise belonging to them. That many of His Majesty's subjects are fond and desirous of assisting them and have advised them to petition the General Assembly for a Lottery, that they may have it in their Power to assist the Petitioners in the handsomest Manner they can;" and praying the Assembly "to commiserate their calamitous circumstances" and grant a lottery of \$4,500—was of course irresistible.

Another (£2,000 O. T.) was for re-building the bridge over "Woonsocket Falls;" another (£4,000) for



the repair of the road leading from the town of Providence into Connecticut, "which lyes in the Town of Gloucester," this road being very rough and bad and "of great Extent, a considerable Part of it without Inhabitants and the land adjoining thereto poor and barren, it is not likely that the same will be made conveniently passable in many Years, without some Public Assistance



be afforded to the Inhabitants of said Town ;" also because "a very useful and necessary commerce is carried on between the Inhabitants of the Colony of Connecticut and the Town of Providence, which will be greatly increased to the mutual Benefit of both Parties, if the said Road be repaired and rendered commodious."

Two petitions in March, 1762, deserve to be set forth in full. The first was by Edmond Sheffield and Joseph Spencer, deputies from the town of New Shoreham, saying "That on the Westermost Side of the said Island there is a large Pond, covering above 1,000 Acres of Land, which formerly had a Communication with the Sea, by a Creek; That then the Fishing Ground for Cod was well known and Bass was there to be caught in great Plenty: That since the Creek has been stopped, the Fishing Ground for Cod is uncertain, they being scattered about in many Places; and the Bass have chiefly left the Island: That they are of Opinion, that a Communication may be opened between the said Pond and the Sea, so that a Passage may be obtained, large enough for Coasting and Fishing Vessels to pass and repass, and thereby find a safe and commodious Harbor. That if this Communication can be made, the Fishery will again become sure and certain, and Fishing Vessels will not be obliged in bad Weather to run to *Newport, New London*, or any other Port, before they have got their Fare; but there may find a safe Harbor: That it will be attended with the greatest Advantages, not only to



this Colony, but the neighboring Governments, and particularly the Inhabitants of *New Shoreham* will reap so great Benefit from it, as will enable them to pay a much larger Proportion of the Public Taxes, than they are now able to do." A lottery was granted *carte blanche*.

The other was the petition of Samuel Dunn, of Providence, setting forth "that in June last he sailed from Providence in the sloop *Joseph*, belonging to Capt. *Joseph Turpin*, for the *West Indies*. That in the Prosecution of the said Voyage, agreeable to the Orders of his said Owner, he was taken by a French Letter of Marque, mounting Eight Guns, called the *St. Esther l' Amerique*, commanded by Joseph (Antoinare) Tirenne, who after pillaging some of his Cargo, agreed to ransom the said Sloop *Joseph*, for One Thousand Pieces of Eight, to be paid at *Cape Francois*. That for the Payment of the said Sum he pledged the Body of *William Cookoe*, his Mate, as an Hostage. That to enable himself to pay the said Ransom he wrote to his Owner to make Insurance upon the said Sloop *Joseph* and Cargo, and at the same Time gave Instructions to *Samuel Chace*, Esq., to assist his Wife in procuring the said Insurance to be made, in Case his Owner should neglect it. That his Owner did not make said Insurance, which obliged his Wife to give a large Premium for that Part of it which was effected; which after deducting the Premium and other Expences will leave no more than £2,775-8-0 Old Tenor, that the Underwriters have to pay, and falls short of the sum pro-



posed to be insured £4,244-12-0 Old Tenor. That on his Passage Home from the *West Indies* he was cast on Shore at *North Carolina*, and lost his Vessel and Cargo, excepting a very small Part that was saved, which being brought to an Average, leaves the aforesaid Sum to be received by him and no more. That neither his Owner, nor himself are able to redeem the said Hostage," wherefore a lottery of £4,500 Old Tenor was granted for that purpose.

In May, 1762, Nathaniel Helme, of Newport, represented that he had been the keeper of His Majesty's Gaol in South Kingstown from 1753 to 1761. "That the present War was commenced soon after he became Keeper of said Gaol, during which a great Number of Persons had been committed to said Gaol for less Sums than he could hold them for, provided they inlisted into the Colony's service. That many Persons so committed to Gaol did actually inlist into the Forces raised by this Colony from Time to Time, and were taken out of Gaol without making any Satisfaction to him for their Board, for the time he was obliged to support them with Victuals and Drink: By which means he hath had many and heavy losses; which together with his other Misfortunes (he having one Son about Twenty Years of Age, who hath been a Cripple from a Child to this Day, and not ever been able to do One Days Work) hath reduced him so much, that he cannot pay his just Debts without converting his Real Estate into Money. That he hath a



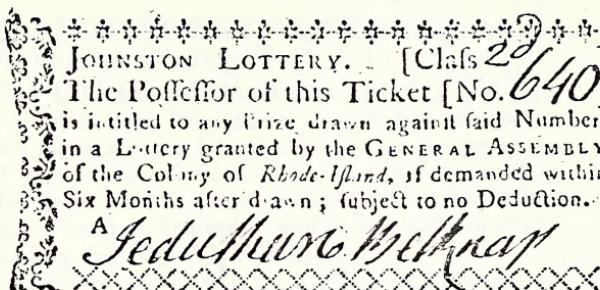
good Deed of Three Acres of Land, lying at *Little Rest* in *South Kingstown* aforesaid, about Eight Rods from the Court House, bounded Southerly on the Highway, with a good Dwelling House, a large Barn, and a Shoemaker's Shop thereon standing. That money is so hard to be raised, that he cannot sell the said Estate for but little more than Half the Value, which will not be sufficient to pay his just Debts;" wherefore he prayed for a lottery to sell said estate.

Capt. Edward Wells, Jr., of Hopkinton, in June, 1762, was granted a lottery on the following grounds: "That he hath lost large Sums of Money at Sea, by the Enemy's taking his Vessels: That he hath also been concerned in joint Trade with a Man of Merit and Capacity, who by Reason of his great Losses and Misfortunes now declares himself to be a Bankrupt; and that he, the Petitioner, is like to be ruined thereby; That by Reason thereof he cannot pay all his just Debts, and those of his Partner, without the Assistance of this Assembly: That he hath a considerable Quantity of Goods by him which he cannot sell for ready Money, and proposes to dispose of the same at Cash Price by a Lottery; That he hath a large Acquaintance, as well as Trade, in *New York* and *Connecticut*, who (he trusts) will take off his Tickets: and many Friends and Acquaintances in this Colony who will cheerfully become Adventurers in a Lottery, to contribute to his Relief and enable him to pay his just Debts. Four directors were appointed to value the goods under oath,



draw a scheme, &c., giving bond to the General Treasurer in double the sum of the lottery.

A petition in October, 1762, shows that, in some cases at least, it was found there was no alchemy in lotteries.

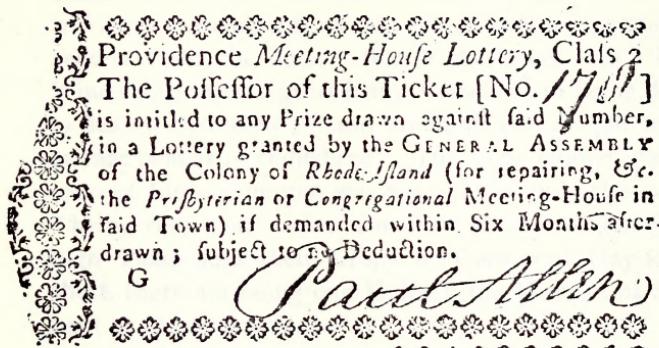


The directors of the lottery for building a meeting-house in Johnston (Oct. 1761) report "that they have proceeded so far as to draw the First Class of said Lottery, the doing of which was attended with a great Deal of Trouble and Pains, and caused the Petitioners to expend considerable Sums of their own Money to compleat the same. That the present Scarcity of Money, together with the many Lotteries now on Foot, renders it impracticable for the Petitioners to proceed any further in the said Affair." They prayed for a settlement of their accounts and a discharge which was granted.

The Providence "Presbyterian or Congregational Society," in February, 1763, had been for a long season without a "settled Gospel Minister" and desirous for



the "best Interest of the Community to be restored to Gospel Order," which seemed "impracticable without the interposition of the Assembly by granting a Lottery;" They desired to build a parsonage and for this purpose



*One Fifty Dollars*  
*in full for the within Prize*  
*Ticket* *Sam'l Butler*

were granted a "Lottery of £3,840 Lawful Money, the Deduction to be £560," representing that "the greater Part of the Tickets will undoubtedly be sold out of and bring a real Value into the Colony." The scheme provided "something more than 2 Blanks and an Half to 1



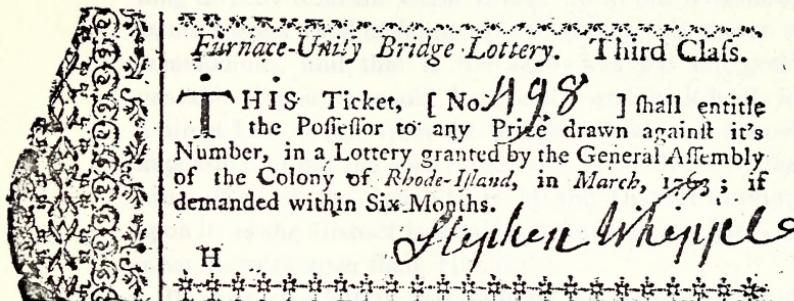
Prize" and "that all Prizes not demanded in Twelve Months after drawing be deemed generously given or forfeited to said Society."

Another lottery of £6,000 Old Tenor was granted to build a wharf at Church's Harbour in Little Compton, which, it was claimed, would make it a safe shelter for vessels from the East "Where they meet with a Head Wind and prevent a great many Vessels from being driven to Sea, or cast away ;" and would also be of public and private benefit in codfishery. The vote recited that the town of Little Compton was not able to build the wharf, "being very much reduced in their Estates by Reason of high Taxes, and their Crops of Corn and Hay falling short, there not being one Half of the Hay cut or Stock kept as in former Years."

Another was granted of £400, lawful money bills, to build a bridge near the Furnace Unity in Cumberland, "there being no Bridge within Five Miles up and Six Miles down the said River from that Place. That Inhabitants live thick on each side of the River, many of whom have Improvements on both sides; and at many Times in the Year, for Weeks together, there is no passing over with Cart or Horse: That there is an open High Road from Smithfield to Boston over the River at that Place, where also stands a Grist-Mill, of very large custom from *Smithfield*, where the River is fordable, and no other within many Miles: And that there are more than One Thousand Tons annually carted to and from



the said Furnace, great Part whereof is carted across the River, when fordable."



Several "Merchants and others, Inhabitants of the Town of Providence" also procured a lottery for the sum of £90, lawful money bills, on the ground "That a Draw-Bridge at *Weybosset* will be of the greatest utility, as a large Part of the Town is situated along by the Water above the Bridge, in which Quarter a great Trade is carried on, That hitherto, for want of a Draw-Bridge, the Transportation of heavy Goods hath been attended with Difficulty and great Expense; and that Part of the Bridge hath always been taken down to get through new Vessels launched above, which is not only chargeable and inconvenient, but weakens and impairs the Bridge itself; and that if there was a Draw-Bridge, nobody would be incommoded thereby; and it would tend greatly to the Promotion of Trade."

In June, 1763, several inhabitants of Providence



obtained a grant for a lottery of £100, lawful money, representing that "the new street in Providence, running directly from the Great Bridge up to the Westward, wants a great Deal of filling up and raising, to render it commodious, and that if the same was put into good passable Repair, it would be greatly used, as it leads in a direct Line to and from the Bridge. That it is almost impossible to put the said Street into good Order by the usual Way of the Inhabitants of the District working upon it, as the District is small and have a great Deal of other Repairs upon their Hands."

In August a lottery was granted to raise £600, old tenor, to repair the bridge over Pawtucket river between Smithfield and Cumberland.

In October a grant of £8,000, old tenor, was made to re-pave Thames Street, Newport, "between the houses of John Freebody and Martin Howard, Esqrs."

In February, 1764, John Franklin represented that "he hath for several Years past, at a great Expence, endeavored to keep the Wharf at his Ferry in good Order, for the safe Conduct of Travellers: That the Situation of it is such, that all his Pains and Expence hath proved fruitless, and that the Expence of doing it effectually, is more than he is able to bear: That he believes if an addition of about Forty Feet be carried out from his Pier, it would effectually secure the said Wharf and would be of great Service to Vessels, coming from Sea in bad Weather. And that his Circumstances are



such, that he is not able to make the said Addition without some Assistance from the Publick :" therefore a lottery of £300 lawful money was granted. Another was voted to raise £130, lawful money, to build a work-house in West Greenwich.

In June, 1764, a lottery was granted to raise a sufficient sum to build a bridge at the Fulling Mill in Warwick, now called Apponaug.

In September the directors of the lottery for re-building the bridge over Pawtucket river, between Smithfield and Cumberland, "known by the name of Wonosoket Bridge," reported that they had drawn the lottery in two classes, in which the sum of £2,000, old tenor, was raised ; that they had advanced out of their own stock £361, old tenor, and that the bridge was not yet completed. Another lottery of £2,000, old tenor, was granted to reimburse them and] to complete the bridge.

At the same time a committee was appointed to audit the accounts of the directors of the "Johnston Meeting House Lottery," who reported at the next session.

In February, 1765, committees were appointed to audit the accounts of the Market and Granary Lottery (Newport), also of the committee to build the Market house, and of the lotteries for paving the streets of Providence.

In December, 1766, new directors were appointed for the lottery to re-pave Thames Street, Newport, granted in October, 1763, as nothing had been done therein.



In June, 1767, Trinity Parish, Newport, was granted a lottery of \$2,500 to build a new steeple for the Church.

A committee was appointed at the August session to audit the accounts of the lottery granted in March, 1762, "for repairing and mending the Great Country Road leading through Gloucester into Connecticut."

At the same session the congregation of Baptists in Warren, "under the pastoral Care of the Rev. Mr. Manning," set forth "That they have been at a very great Charge and Expence in building a Meeting-House and Parsonage House in said Town. that the Parsonage House is not yet finished, and by reason of the large Sums they have expended as aforesaid; they cannot at present compleat the same; and that Mr. Manning hath now under his care several Pupils to be educated in the liberal Arts, who cannot be accommodated in the said House in its present Condition; a lottery of £150 lawful money, was granted.

In October a lottery of £225, lawful money, was granted to pave Mill Street, Newport, "a very public street, and much improved by many People, and by Carts and other Carriages;" from Frances Street to the Rev. Mr. Vinall's Meeting-House.

The committee appointed at the previous session to audit the accounts of the Directors of the Gloucester lottery reported that they "found they had all fully laid out the Money they had received by the First Class of



said Lottery on the said Road, excepting Capt. *William Dean*, who hath removed out of the Colony: who by the best account we can get never did any Thing upon the said Road; the said Lottery was divided into Two Classes; and we are of Opinion that the Tickets of the Second Class cannot be sold nor even drawn." Thereupon it was suppressed.

A lottery of \$500 was granted in February, 1768, to pave Kings Street in Newport.

"A considerable number of the Inhabitants of the Counties of *Providence* and *Kent*" in June, 1768, represented "That the Great North Road leading from *Providence*, through *Plainfield*, into the internal Parts of the Colony of Connecticut, with which this colony hath a great and beneficial Intercourse and Dealing, is very rough and greatly out of Repair, whereby Travellers are much fatigued and discouraged, and the Transportation of heavy Goods and Commodities from thence, into this Colony, by Land, is rendered extremely difficult, to the great Detriment of Trade: That the legal Methods for amending Highways, will prove insufficient for putting in good Order the said Road; it lying through a rugged and uneven Country, and the Inhabitants being very much scattered, and generally poor: And that if a Lottery may be granted for repairing the same, they have the strongest Assurances from *Connecticut*, that the Inhabitants of that Colony will not only take off a great number of Tickets, but use their greatest Influence to



have the Roads on their side well amended and repaired to the Colony Line." A grant was made without limit.

Another committee was appointed at this session to audit the accounts of the directors of the Market and Granary House Lottery and the committee for building said House were empowered to call on the directors for such sums as were due. A committee was also appointed to settle the accounts of the Warren Lottery.

Two lotteries were granted in February, 1769. One on the petition of "divers Inhabitants of the Town of *Warwick*" that "the great Bridge on *Pawtuxet* River, known by the name of Nacheicot Bridge, was some time past, by a great Flood, moved to some Distance down the Stream, that the Timbers are very rotten, and said Bridge is now in so ruinous a Condition, that it is impassable with Safety: That although the said Bridge is very commodious to said Town in general, as well as to the neighboring Parts, and to Travellers, yet (there being so many other Bridges maintained by said Town) the Inhabitants of said Town in General, are discouraged from contributing to repair or rebuild said Bridge."

The other was to the Proprietors of Long Wharf, Newport, of £1350, lawful money, on the ground "That by their Agreement with the Town of *Newport*, long since made, they are under Covenant for building the said Wharf, a further distance of One hundred and Seventy Feet, beyond what is already completed; that there is great Necessity for the said Wharf's being paved



from Thames street, to the Draw-Bridge, that Part being much used and improved, as a public street, and being extremely miry and inconvenient for Foot Passengers ; that the Proprietors have suffered in their Estates there, by unexpected high Tides, by which the Wharf hath been made ruinous and laid Waste, and by Fire in the Destruction of their Warehouses and Effects, to the amount of more than Four Thousand Dollars, whereby they are rendered unable to perform their Covenant, and Agreement with said Town."

In September, 1769, a lottery of £120, lawful money, was granted to the freemen of *North Kingstown* for the reason that "they are greatly burthened with poor People ; that the building a Work-House in said Town, in which to employ the Poor, will be of great advantage."

The trouble in obtaining a settlement of the Newport Market and Granary House Lottery was again apparent in February, 1770. The committee appointed in June, 1768, having done nothing, and one member having died, the vacancy was filled, with directions to the committee to report at the next session. No report appears, but in September the deputies of the town of Newport prayed for another lottery to reimburse two of the directors for money due to them and to finish the building, which was granted.

At the same session the directors of the lottery for building a wharf at Church's Harbor reported that the



first class had been drawn and the money raised applied to the use mentioned; that some tickets of the second class had been sold but they could not sell the remainder; "that divers Persons, who have purchased said Tickets, and given their notes to the Directors therefor, have since disposed of Tickets to others, who are often calling upon the Directors for the Price of the Tickets." The directors were authorized to call in the tickets of the second class, to sue the notes, and a committee was appointed to audit their accounts.

In October, 1770, a lottery of \$400 was granted to repair Whipple's Bridge between Smithfield and Cumberland; also another of \$300, on the petition of "Inhabitants of the Town of Cranston, that there is a considerable Number of People in that and the neighboring Towns, who are religiously inclined, of the Sect called Baptists, whose Principles are contained in *Heb*reus, Chap 6th and 1st, and 2d Verses, who are willing to devote a Part of their Time to the Public Worship of God; That there being no Meeting House within a convenient Distance of the Place where the greatest Part of that Church or Society live; Meetings have been kept up in said Place, for upwards of Thirty Years, at private Houses, until about Two Years past, they have hired a House at the Corner where Two Roads meet, near the Reverend *Elisha Greene's*, in said Cranston, for a Place of public Worship: That the said House and Lot is now to be sold, and it being a very

1157818



convenient and commodious Place for a Meeting House, they are inclined to purchase it for that Purpose, for the Church that is under the Care and Direction of the said *Elisha Greene*; but that the said Society is not able to purchase the same by subscription, and repair it."

The town of Warwick in May, 1771, was granted a lottery of \$400, to rebuild "Capt. *Greene's* Bridge, over *Pawtuxet* River, about six Miles above the Falls, which was, in *March* last, carried away by a large Flood." The Committee to audit the accounts of the Warren Lottery reported that the trust had been faithfully discharged.

In August, 1771, a committee was appointed to audit the accounts of the lottery for repairing the road from Providence to Plainfield.

"Divers Inhabitants of the Town of *Providence*" represented "that the Street leading from the Court House to the Main Street, hath been, by the late heavy Rains, so gullied and worn as to render it almost wholly impassable, and endanger the Foundation of the Court House, so that unless it be repaired it must inevitably fall to the Ground; And that the Inhabitants of the said Town, as well as those of the adjacent Country, suffer many Inconveniences for Want of a Market House; Provisions being often almost spoiled by being carried about the streets through wet and heat; and Fish rendered more scarce than it would otherwise be, if they had a proper Place to expose it to sale." A lottery was granted to pave the Court house street and to build a public market on the town's land near the bridge.



Robert Smith a Director of the lottery in Providence  
hath this day paid unto Peter Hill three hundred & ten shillings in full of  
a Prize drawn in said Lottery against the Number One Hundred and whereby  
the said Peter Hill saith that he was possessed in his own Right of the printed  
Ticket No. one hundred in said Lottery but capually lost the same, so that he  
cannot procure and deliver the same to the said Job. Now the said Job Smith  
and Enoch Hunt both of Providence for themselves their Executors &  
Administrators do covenant and promise with him the said Job Smith his  
Executor & Administrator that they will indemnify and save harmless him  
the said Job Smith his Executor & Admin' from all costs Damages and Trouble  
that may accrue unto him or be sustained by means of his paying said Prize  
without delivering the Ticket, and that in case he shal be compelled to pay said  
Prize again to any other person who may be possessed of said Ticket, that then  
they will likewise indemnify him. Witness their hands & Seals, November  
the third, 1762

Witness  
Benedict Taylor  
John Hilton

Robert Smith  
Enoch Hunt



John Smith to Jas & Willm Russell 17<sup>th</sup>

To 3 Tickets in y<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Clas<sup>s</sup> Market<sup>g</sup> £ 1.10.0  
House<sup>g</sup> Library £ 1.10.0

To 3 D<sup>r</sup>itto 2<sup>nd</sup> " " £ 1.5.0

To 3 D<sup>r</sup>itto " 4<sup>th</sup> " " 3.3.0

To 3 D<sup>r</sup>itto " 5<sup>th</sup> " " 3.12.0  
£ 10.10.0

To Cash Lent & Ow<sup>r</sup> sometime ago 1.16.8 £ 1.12.0

To his Note bind<sup>r</sup> to Huben Marcy<sup>g</sup> £ 1.14.11<sup>th</sup>  
payable 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan<sup>r</sup> endorsed over to us £ 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 5.11<sup>th</sup>

3



Supra

11

By 5000 Tickets 2<sup>nd</sup> class ~~11.00~~ 10.18.00

By 29 Bills " 3<sup>rd</sup> " 2.9.0

By 4 Bills " 4<sup>th</sup> " ~~11.20~~ <sup>11.10</sup> ~~11.00~~ 11.20

Wallace due in Cash  
which Mess<sup>r</sup> Bissell, would take kind of } 23.2.11<sup>3</sup>  
Mr Smith to pay him with } 27.6.11<sup>3</sup>

Providence 19 Feb 1773

~~Is~~ Read in, right hand, by  
said Wallace 10.18.11<sup>3</sup> Bissell  
2.11<sup>3</sup>



In the following *Coventry* lottery, in the direction was taken. Amongst others was granted to George Waddington, Esq. of Coventry, also one of the Royal Engineers, who had

\$

COVENTRY,

1826.

*For value received in*      *Ticket in the Coventry Bridge*  
*Lottery, promise to pay Ebenezer Johnson, Jr. Jonathan*  
*Whaley and Elisha Arnold, Managers thereof, or their order,*  
*Dollars      Cents, in ten days after the com-*  
*pletion of the drawing.*

6

*Since a lottery is granted at the*  
*present session, I am ready to take*  
~~*Twenty five*~~  
*Twenty five pounds in tickets, for the*  
*Balance due me as settled by the*  
*Committee for advances on the new*  
*street*

*January 27-1795      Ebenezer, December*

*1795*  
*for the money advanced to me by the*  
*City to repair the South Wall, and to be deducted*  
*The August session, 1795, as a sum advanced*  
*That of February, 1795, advanced for repairing the*



In the following October a vacancy in the directors was filled. Another lottery was granted to complete Whipple's bridge in Cumberland; also one of £60, lawful money to repair the road in North Providence, leading from Providence to Smithfield "by the Dwelling Houses of Capt. *Esek Hopkins* and *Isaiah Hawkins*, Esq. and a Branch of the Road to the Eastward of the Dwelling House of Mr. *Jonathan Whipple*."

A committee was appointed to audit the accounts of the lottery for the bridge over the Pawtucket river between Smithfield and Cumberland. A lottery to raise \$600 was granted to the "Wardens of the Episcopalian Church in Providence, to build a Steeple and procure a Clock, which are much wanted, and wil prove ornamental and serviceable to the Town." The lottery granted in February, 1763, to raise \$560, lawful money, to purchase a parsonage for the Presbyterian or Congregational Society in Providence, which had "hitherto been delayed" was revived and new directors appointed. The town of Newport was authorized to fill a vacancy in the directors of the King Street lottery. Another was granted to raise \$150 to build the abutment of the bridge over Hunt's River.

The only lottery granted in May, 1772, was to raise \$350 to repair the South Killingly road, in Gloucester.

The August session, 1772, was fruitful in lotteries. That of February, 1768, granted for the paving of King



Street, Newport, having proved insufficient "owing to the situation of the street, which rendered the making a large common sewer necessary" another was granted

**GLOUCESTER ROAD LOTTERY.**

**No.**

**T**HE Bearer of this Ticket will be entitled to receive the Prize that may be drawn against its Number, if demanded within Twelve Months after drawn.—Subject to a Deduction of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent.

F *Abraham Barber* Manager.

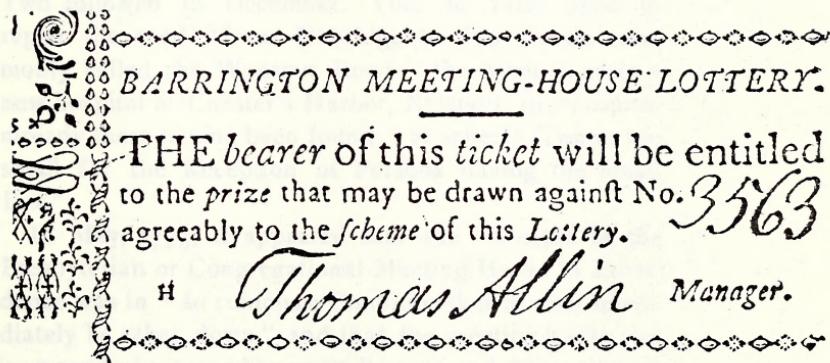
upon the assurance that "the finishing the said Street upon the Plan proposed will not only make it very elegant but extremely useful." Another was to raise £40 lawful money to repair the bridge over Pawtucket river near the Furnace *Unity*. A third was to raise £165 lawful money to repair the Congregational Meeting house in Barrington and to lay out three roads, one to the Southward and two to the Westward, to accommodate travellers towards Fuller's Ferry and the meeting-house. A fourth to raise \$2500 was granted to John Greene and others to rebuild the buildings of the Forge in Coventry, which had just been consumed by fire; The petition stated that some of the owners "are considerably indebted, have increasing Families to maintain, and by the said Misfortune are deprived of their principal Depend-



ence; that many others must consequentially share in the Calamity, as a considerable Part of the Country adjacent were employed by means of said Forge, which also furnished a very material and expensive Article for Shipping: And that, if the said Forge be not repaired, the Anchor Works, which still remain, will be in a Manner useless."

A fifth was to raise \$500 to build a Baptist Meeting-house in East Greenwich. A sixth to raise \$500 to rebuild the town wharf in *Warwick* Harbor; and still another to pave Pelham street, *Newport*.

Four were granted at the October session. One to raise \$1500 to build a Presbyterian or Congregational



meeting house in East Greenwich, the petitioners having "great Encouragement from their Brethren, in the neighboring Governments, that they will assist, in case



they can obtain the Grant of a Lottery for that Purpose." A second to raise \$400 to build a bridge and repair a road in Gloucester, beginning at the Colony line on the road from Oxford to Providence at "Allum Pond Hill," thence to Cook's Mill about five miles, crossing Clear River. A third to raise \$500 to finish the meeting-house in Johnston and to discharge a debt upon it, of £1500, old tenor, due since 1764. These three were not to take place until May, April, and February, 1773, respectively. A fourth was to raise \$1000, to finish the steeple and purchase the Clock for King's Church, Providence, the sum of \$600 raised by the lottery granted in October, 1771, not having been sufficient. Two followed in December. One to raise \$500 to repair the road "from Uxbridge to Providence, commonly called the Wonscut Road;" the other to erect a new hospital at Coaster's Harbor, Newport, the hospital already there having been found "at several Times, too small for the Reception of Persons having the Small Pox."

In May, 1773, it appeared that the "Steeple of the Presbyterian or Congregational Meeting-House in Providence was in "so ruinous a Condition that it must immediately be taken down" and that the meeting-house was in "need of many other great Repairs and Alterations;" "that the situation of the Meeting is such that if a Tower and Steeple, with a Clock, be erected at the West End thereof, it will answer extremely well for a Town Clock,



and be also beneficial to the People who come from the adjacent Country to Market." A lottery of £700 was granted.

Benjamin Wickham of Newport set forth in August, 1773, that he was "possessed of a real Estate in the said Town, consisting of a very large, well finished Dwelling-House, Wharf, Warehouses, &c., which is at present under some Incumbrance; That he hath other Debts which reduce him to the Necessity of selling the said Estate; but that the same is so valuable that few People can purchase it; owing to which, and the Scarcity of Money, together with the Decrease of the Trade of the Town, he cannot dispose of it for any Thing near its value. A lottery was granted and a committee appointed to appraise the estate.

A lottery was granted in October, 1773, to raise \$500 to build a Baptist meeting-house in Coventry. The town of Newport was authorized to fill vacancies in the directors of Benjamin Wickham's lottery and a committee appointed to audit the accounts of the Barrington lottery. Vacancies in the directors of the Coventry scheme were filled at the following May session and, at the same time, grants were made as follows: to Abial Brown of South Kingstown to raise \$500, because "on the Sixth instant, his House, and the principal Part of his Furniture, were accidentally consumed by Fire, by which Misfortune he, with his Wife and Four small Children were reduced to a state of Poverty and Distress;"



to inhabitants of East Greenwich to raise \$600, to buy a lot and build a school-house in that town; to Griffin Greene of Coventry to raise the sum of \$500. He stated that a lottery was granted to himself and others in August, 1772, to raise \$2500 to rebuild the forge burned in that town; that two classes had been drawn to raise \$500, but "That the Greatness of the Plan hath proved an unsurmountable obstacle to its further Progress."

The other parties concerned were willing to relinquish their interest in any further gain, but he had been a great sufferer and stood in need of assistance.

In June, 1774, Benjamin Greene, "one of the owners of the Iron Works, in Coventry," represented that a lottery had been granted to the owners to rebuild the works, consumed by fire, from which they had received but small benefit; that the expense of rebuilding had been great and particularly heavy upon him. A lottery to raise \$600 was granted to him. At the same session a lottery was granted to raise £300, lawful money, for a parsonage house and lot at Pawtuxet. Another to raise £2000—to a "Committee of the Baptist or Antipædo-baptist Society" in Providence, to build a meeting-house "for the Worship of Almighty God, and holding the public commencements in." Another to Gideon Almy, of Tiverton, to raise \$1,200, "to help him forward in business again," representing "That the last Fall he laid out every shilling he was worth in fitting out Two Third Parts of the sloop *Sally*, on a Whaling Voyage:



That the said sloop, meeting with success, had got on Board one Hundred and Twenty Barrels of Oil, by the latter end of *January* last: and that the said sloop being obliged in a Gale of Wind, to come to an Anchor under *Hispaniola*, was seized by a French Frigate, carried into *Port-au-Prince*, and there, with her whole cargo, condemned as lawful Prize; by which Misfortune he hath totally lost upwards of Two Thousand Dollars, being the whole that he was worth, and had scraped together, by his unwearied Diligence and Industry, and is deprived of the Means of putting himself into any Way of Business, to support a Wife and seven children." As this appeal was successful, Nathaniel Stoddard of Little Compton, owner of the other third of the sloop, adopted it *verbatim*, even to the number of children, and obtained a grant, in December, 1774, to raise \$600. In August, 1774, authority was given to draw the first class of the lottery for the Baptist meeting-house in Providence in September instead of October, as all the tickets had been sold.

A new committee to audit the accounts of the Barrington Meeting house lottery was appointed in place of a former committee who had not completed it. A committee was also appointed to audit the accounts of the "Wenscut Road Lottery."

The lottery granted to Benjamin Wickham of Newport, the year before, "for the Disposal of his real Estate to enable him to discharge his Debts" having "met with Discouragements, so that there appears but little Prospect.



at present, of its being filled and drawn ;" and the Colony having obtained an execution against him for upwards of £60, which had been returned unsatisfied, " In order to further the Recovery of the said sum for the Colony, as well as to encourage the said Lottery," the General Treasurer was directed to purchase " on the Account and Risque of the Colony, as many tickets as the Debt and cost of the said Execution amounted to ; on the condition that the said Execution be not discharged until the said Lottery be drawn.

William Holden of Warwick procured a grant to raise "about £50—lawful money," to repair the dam across the Pawtuxet River at his grist-mill. Two of the directors of Benjamin Greene's lottery were empowered to complete it, "as the tickets are now disposing of."

A committee was appointed in October to audit the accounts of the Market House lottery in Providence. In December, (besides that to Nathaniel Stoddard already mentioned) a grant to raise \$200 was made to Jeremiah Hopkins of Coventry, who sufficiently understood the "Business of a Gunsmith, so as to make Guns, or Small Arms, with advantage to himself and to others by whom Guns are much wanted, at this Time when they cannot be imported from Great Britain," but was unable to supply himself with works, tools &c.

Whether from absorbing interest in the events of those years of public trial, from general derangement of all financial affairs, the ease with which paper money was



emitted, or from a plethora of schemes already placed before the people, may be uncertain, but it appears that from December, 1774 to December 1779 only one lottery was granted, in October, 1778, to raise £300, lawful money, to repair Pawtucket Bridge, on the ground "that the said Bridge was at first built by way of a Lottery and hath ever since been repaired in like manner." It is probable that nothing was done under this resolution as a similar one to raise £800, lawful money, was passed in December, 1779.

The Continental Congress, in need of money to carry on the war made use of various expedients to raise it. Among them was a lottery, to protect which it was recommended that laws be passed to punish counterfeiting or forging of tickets. Accordingly, in March, 1777, the Assembly passed an act providing "That any Person or Persons convicted of said crime be liable to suffer the Pains of Death, without the Benefit of Clergy, with Confiscation of all and singular the real and personal Estate of the Offender" for the use of the state.

In May, 1774, a grant was made to raise \$600 towards purchasing a lot and building a school-house in the compact part of East Greenwich, and in February, 1880, upon the representation that it would be "beneficial to build a House sufficient for Two Schools" the sum was increased to \$40,000.

In May, 1780, authority was given to raise \$30,000 to



pave Union street in Providence, the overplus if any to be paid to the town.

In June, 1782, George Hazard Peckham of Charlestown was granted a lottery to sell three lots of land for the payment of his debts.

In June, 1783, the Baptist Society of Newport was authorized to raise twenty-five hundred dollars to build a new meeting-house, the old one "having been improved as a hospital by the *British* and afterwards by the *French* army," and so much injured "as not to admit of being repaired, but to the Disadvantage of the said Society." The town of Newport, also, "desirous of having the lots on the South side of the Parade, from the Rome lot (so-called), extending Eastward to the Shop improved by Mr. John Easton, appropriated to the Use of the Public," but unable to purchase said lots, "being greatly in debt and having suffered much during the late War," prayed for a grant of the Rome lot and a lottery to raise two thousand dollars to buy the other lots, which was voted.

Inhabitants of the towns of Cumberland and Smithfield were authorized to raise one hundred and eighty pounds, lawful money, to repair Whipple's Bridge, over Pawtucket River.

In February, 1784, the Congregational Society of Tiverton was empowered to raise fifteen hundred dollars to repair their meeting-house, which had been used as barracks for troops.

Also inhabitants of the town of Providence to raise



one thousand pounds, lawful money, to erect a public market house for the benefit of the North part of said town ; also to build a bridge from the south side of the Work-house lot over to the Main street. Another followed to enable the Episcopal Church in Bristol to raise one thousand dollars to build a church in place of one burned by the enemy in the late war. In May, 1874, the First Congregational Society of Newport, "under the pastoral care of Rev. Samuel Hopkins," representing "that they were possessed of two dwelling-houses, which the British troops totally destroyed while they remained at Newport, who also greatly injured the meeting-house and carried off the bell," received authority to raise twelve hundred silver dollars to repair the meeting-house and to purchase a parsonage and a bell.

In February, 1785, the Second Congregational Society of Newport set forth that "having early interested themselves in the Cause of Liberty, the British Army were thence induced, upon taking possession of the Island of Rhode Island, to convert the Meeting House and Parsonage House belonging to the said Society into Hospitals, whereby the same were in a great measure destroyed ; and that the said society, having been great sufferers in the late War, are unable to repair the same," whereupon a lottery was granted to raise twelve hundred and fifty dollars, for repairs. The Episcopal Church in Providence (now St. John's) set forth that their edifice "is greatly out of Repair, and unless speedily repaired



will soon be in a ruinous Condition ; and that the circumstances of the said Society are such as to render it impossible for them to cause the necessary Repairs to be made," and obtained a grant to raise Eight hundred dollars.

A committee was appointed to inquire into the circumstances of a lottery granted for building a Congregational meeting house in East Greenwich, to report at the next session.

In August, 1785, a lottery was granted to raise one hundred and eighty pounds, lawful money, to finish a meeting-house in the west part of Coventry. In October, 1785, one to raise one thousand dollars for the purpose of clearing shoals or bars in Pawcatuck River. Also one to William West of Scituate, to dispose of a farm of two hundred acres at Point Judith, and twenty-seven acres of salt marsh ; a farm of Four hundred acres and two hundred acres of timber land in Killingly, Ct.; three hundred acres in Lyndon; three hundred and eighty acres in Weston; four hundred and fifty acres in Foster; sixty cows; eight oxen; five horses; and one hundred sheep. Two lotteries were granted in February, 1786. One to raise four hundred and fifty dollars to repair the bridge over Pawtucket River, near to Furnace Unity, because "in the Course of the late War another Lottery was granted for repairing the said Bridge, which Lottery, by reason of the rapid Depreciation of the Currency, proved ineffectual; that Sums of Money have



been since contributed to the repairing the said Bridge, by the Inhabitants contiguous; and that the same is now impassable for Carriages and will soon be ruined unless repaired." Another to raise five hundred pounds, lawful money, to build a meeting-house in the north part of Gloucester and to purchase a lot, for the society called "The Old Standing Baptists."

In June, 1786, a petition to raise money to dig a trench around Pawtucket Falls, for free passage of fish, was continued with order of notice in newspapers.

In March, 1787, the United Congregational Society of Little Compton represented that "God, in his Providence, having taken from them their late Pastor, Mr. Jonathan Ellis, by Death, they have unanimously made Choice of a young Gentleman to preach the Gospel to them: That the Calamities of the times, and the Want of a sufficient Fund to support a Minister, necessitates them to pray" for a lottery to raise six hundred pounds, of the paper money of the state, to build a parsonage house; which was granted.

In June, 1787, the managers of the lottery to repair the bridge over Pawtucket River, near Furnace Unity, having exceeded the proceeds, obtained a further grant for two hundred pounds, lawful money, to reimburse themselves and to complete the repairs. Another grant to raise nine hundred pounds, was asked for in October, 1787, to build a bridge over the same river at Woonsocket Falls, setting forth that one "was formerly



built by a Lottery at great Expence: that many Years past the said Bridge was greatly Damaged by the Floods, and is now in such a decayed State that there must of Necessity be a new Bridge built; and that the Persons who have the Care of the said Bridge, on Examination find that a Bridge may be built a few Rods down Stream more convenient for the Public and entirely safe against Floods." In October, 1788, the directors in Wm. West's lottery, granted in October, 1785, represented that the tickets "were principally sold upon Credit for the Paper Currency of this State; that many of those who drew Money Prizes refuse or neglect to apply for their Prize Money"; wherefore they pray for an order "that those of the fortunate Adventurers in Money Prizes who shall neglect to apply for the same within Four Months after public Notice in Two of the News-papers in this State, shall be precluded from bringing any action for the same;" and it was so voted.

"The Petition of the Proprietors of the liberal Fund, praying that a Lottery may be granted to them for the Encouragement of Manufactures," was referred to the next session. In December, 1788, a committee was appointed to settle the accounts of the directors of the Bridge and Market House lottery, in Providence.

George H. Peckham of South Kingstown, set forth "that by Misfortunes in the late War, and by a continued Sickness of Five Years, he is much reduced in His circumstances; and that he proposes to set up the business



of Nail-making, but is unable to erect a suitable Shop, and to procure the necessary Stock," asking a lottery to raise two thousand one hundred pounds, of the money emitted by this state in May, A. D., 1786, which was granted.

Inhabitants of Hopkinton, in May, 1789, represented that within about a mile of Hopkinton City "is a considerable Number of Inhabitants calling themselves Protestant Baptists; that there is no Baptist Meeting House nearer than about Five Miles; That the said Inhabitants are generally poor and unable to build a Meeting-House, without assistance; and that by Reason thereof the public Worship of the Supreme Being is in a great Measure neglected." They petitioned for a lottery to raise "Four Hundred Pounds, real money or produce Equivalent;" also "that the said Meeting-House shall belong to the said Inhabitants and their Successors in the following Manner, that is to say, The People called Sabbatarian or Seventh-Day Baptists, shall have 'a right to improve the said Meeting-House every other, or One Half of the Sabbaths or Seventh Days, and those other People called Separates or New Light Baptists, that observe the Seventh Day as a Sabbath, have a Right to the other Half of the Sabbaths or Seventh Days; and that those called First Day Baptists have a Right to the said Meeting House all the Sundays, or so often as they have Need, or a Preacher, on the First Day of the Week.' And that when said



Meeting-House shall need repairing, if either of the said Parties or Denominations shall refuse or neglect to pay their Proportion (estimating each of them to be at One Third Part) of the Expences thereof, such Party or Denomination shall forfeit all their Right and Privilege in and to the said Meeting-House." In January, 1790, a committee was appointed to settle the accounts of the Directors of a lottery granted February, 1786, to build a Meeting House in Gloucester. In October, 1790, a lottery was granted to raise not exceeding three thousand pounds, in specie, to build a bridge over Weybosset River "at or near the Place where Weybosset Bridge now stands, and for keeping it in Repair."

Also to the Second Congregational Church and Congregation in the town of Newport, to raise twelve hundred specie dollars to discharge a debt incurred in the repair of their House of Worship and Parsonage House, which were greatly damaged by the British Troops, who left them in a ruinous Condition," and also to further repair them.

Inhabitants of North Providence, in February, 1791, representing "that they erected a Meeting-House in that Town several Years ago, but have never been able to complete it, and that what hath heretofore been done hath gone much to Decay; and that it is still out of their Power to repair and finish the said Building, without some public Assistance," obtained a lottery to raise one hundred and fifty pounds in specie.

Trinity Church, Newport, also got authority to raise



CLASS FOURTH. No. ( )  
Providence Great-Bridge Lottery.

THIS TICKET intitles the Posseffor to such PRIZE  
as may be drawn against its Number, agreeably to  
an ACT of the LEGISLATURE of the State of Rhode-Island,  
passed October 30th, 1790.—Subject to no Deduction.

Q

John Dyer, Proprietor

[Endorsed on the Back.]

Joseph Whittemore

Hannah Whittemore 1/8



one thousand five hundred silver dollars, because "the Dispersion of the Society during the late War, occasioned their church to go very much to Decay: That the unavoidable Expence of repairing it, although the Contributions for that Purpose were liberal, hath involved them in a Debt which they cannot, consistent with the Justice they owe to their Families, pay among themselves: That one of the Lanes leading to the said Church, which was paved by the said Society, by constant Use hath been almost torn up; and that a Fence round the Yard, which now lies open, and other very considerable Repairs for the Church are necessary."

Several other lotteries were granted at this session. One to lay out a new road in Providence, from Amasa Gray's house "towards Pawtucket, nearly straight for about Two Miles," which "will greatly accommodate and beautify the North End of said town." The petition set forth "That some of the Owners of the Soil through which the said Road is to pass are willing to lay open the same, without any pecuniary Compensation, and others will not, without being paid the Value of their Land; and that, at present, the only practicable Mode of raising the Money necessary to purchase that Soil through which the said Road is to pass, which must be purchased, of making the said Road on a durable Basis, and of paving the same, in such Manner as to prevent the Necessity of annual Repairs, is by a Lottery." Authority was given to raise nine hundred pounds, silver money. "Prizes



not demanded within Six Months after the Publication of the Prize-Tickets, will be deemed as generously given for the Benefit of the Road." It was also provided that if the road should not be laid out within three years from the time of drawing, or if laid out, all the money should not be expended, the money remaining should be paid into the General Treasury, for the benefit of the state; also that no tickets be sold before the following November," unless the Lottery granted for repairing Weybosset Bridge be sooner completed." Another grant was to raise five hundred silver dollars to repair the South road from Providence, through Cranston, to Voluntown, Connecticut. Another for the same amount to repair the North road from Providence, through Scituate and Foster to Norwich.

Another lottery was granted to John Robinson, of South Kingstown, no amount stated, on the ground "that he hath at a very considerable Expence built a Wharff at Point Judith, and almost completed a Boat and Store, which hath already proved very useful to the Public. That if the said Wharff be extended Thirty or Forty Feet further into the Sea, it will afford a safe Harbour for Coasters, and promote a beneficial Intercourse between the Country and the Town of Newport: but that the Expence thereof will prove too great to him, without some public Assistance."

In June, 1791, upon the petition of Samuel J. Potter, Executor of the Will of Nicholas Easton, of Newport,



representing "that the personal Estate of the said Nicholas Easton is not sufficient to discharge his debts; that in the present reduced Price of Lands, no Sale can be made of his real Estate, in the usual Manner, without great Injury to the Heirs, who are under Age: and that from a Principle of doing Justice to the Creditors, as well as for the Benefit of the Heirs, he is desirous to make Sale of such Part of the said real Estate, by Way of Lottery, as may be sufficient to pay the said Debts," authority was given to sell eighty acres of land in Newport, with the two wind-mills thereon, by lottery, and a committee was appointed to examine the title and appraise the value of the land. The committee reported their appraisal in October, 1791, dividing the land into sixty-four lots, and the executor was authorized to mortgage the balance of the land of Nicholas Easton's estate, to secure the payment of the amount charged upon the eighty acres.

In February, 1792, St. Paul's Church, North Kingston, was authorized to raise six hundred and twenty-five specie dollars to repair and finish their church. Also, upon the petition of a "great Number of Persons" representing that "the great Country Road leading from Providence through Gloucester to Woodstock, in Connecticut, is extremely rough and bad, for about six or seven miles to the Eastward of Connecticut Line; that the Land through which it passes is barren, and the Inhabitants but few, and unable to make the said Road



good," authority was given to raise one thousand two hundred and fifty specie dollars, by lottery.

In June, 1792, Pardon Allen of Exeter, was authorized to raise two hundred and fifty dollars, in specie, to erect suitable works for manufacturing nails.

In February, 1793, a committee was appointed to audit the accounts of the directors of the Whipple Bridge lottery. Also in June to audit the accounts of the lottery to repair the South road to Voluntown, and to make allowance to the managers for their services.

In February, 1794, a committee of the First Congregational Society in Providence prayed for a delivery to them of the bonds given by the directors of a lottery granted in 1772, for repairing the meeting house, which lottery had never been settled, in order to enable them to effect a settlement with the directors.

In February, 1794, the managers of a lottery granted to the executor of the will of Nicholas Easton of Newport, for the sale of eighty acres of land, being unable to dispose of the tickets, prayed for a cancellation of their bond. Upon the calling in of all tickets sold, the General Treasurer was authorized to cancel the bond and to destroy the deed of the land made to him by the executor.

A committee was appointed to settle the accounts of the directors of a lottery for opening a new road in the north part of the town of Providence. In October, 1796, a lottery was authorized for the purpose of finish-



ing a meeting house in Warren, with a scheme of \$9,000 in prizes.

Another, in January, 1795, to raise \$2,500 to rebuild Long Wharf in Newport and to build a hotel, the rents and profits of which, when completed were to be appropriated to the support of public schools. Concerning this lottery the late Judge Staples, made the following statement : \*

“Without petition or complaint from any one, on motion, the Assembly authorized thirty-six persons, citizens of Newport, who are named in the act, to set forth a scheme to raise by lottery twenty-five thousand dollars.

“They were to appoint managers of the lottery, who were to give bonds to the general treasurer for the faithful performance of their trust as managers. The powers conferred on them were very broad. How the wharf should be rebuilt, after a title to it had been procured, what kind of a hotel and where to be located, are left to the discretion of these trustees, who are to act without bond or oath, in discharge of their part of the trust,

“After the wharf and hotel were completed, the trustees were to apply the rents and profits arising from them to such a public school for the children of Newport, and in such way and manner, and under such regulations as the trustees should impose. And the trust to last through all time, the right of filling vacancies in the number being specially conferred on the survivors. The

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\* Hist. Pub. Education in R. I. p. 33.



board of trustees originated with the Assembly; the funds which they were to raise and appropriate, were provided by the Assembly. No person was compelled to contribute toward the fund, and no person was compelled to be benefited by it."

Another to raise \$4,000, to complete and furnish a hotel for an exchange, or Coffee House in Providence. Another to raise £800, to erect a meeting house for the Catholic Baptist Society, of Cumberland, incorporated at the same session. The managers of the Providence Street Lottery, appointed in February, 1791, represented that from the great number of lotteries granted before and in the year 1791, they found it impossible to dispose of all their tickets and were obliged to draw two classes with a great number of their tickets on hand, "which proved unfortunate;" notwithstanding which they continued and the street was finished to the approbation of the town council of the said town of Providence, and in so doing advanced large sums of money, more than the proceeds of the said lottery," and so they prayed for a lottery not exceeding four hundred pounds to reimburse to them the money advanced and the balance, if any, to be placed in the town treasury for the repair of streets.

A committee of the Congregational Society on the east side of the river in Providence set forth that by a very liberal subscription in proportion to the number and ability of the society, they were erecting and had partly finished a meeting house, but from an extraordinary and unexpected rise in prices of labor and materials



they were unable to proceed further and a lottery to raise five thousand dollars was granted.

The Congregational United Society of Little Compton represented that in 1786, they had been granted a lottery to build a house upon the Ministry Land, so-called, but were discouraged by the depreciation of the bills of credit emitted that year, from pursuing it; they had built the house and now prayed for a new lottery, which was granted.

In May, 1795, David M. Lane was required to give bonds for the due appropriation of the proceeds of the lottery granted at the previous January session for a hotel or coffe house in Providence.

In June, 1795, a lottery to raise \$5,000, was granted to St. John's Church, Providence, for purchasing a lot and building a house for a parsonage. Also to the congregation attending upon the ministry of the Rev. Joseph Snow in Providence, to raise \$4,000—for the completion of their meeting house.

Also to raise £300 to mend the highway from Westport, Mass., to Howard's Ferry in Tiverton; another to raise \$4,000, to build a bridge over Martin's Wading Place between the towns of Smithfield and Cumberland; another to raise the same amount for repairing the road from Providence to Killingly; another to raise \$2,000, to build a meeting house for the Baptist Society under the pastoral care of Elder John Hammond in Foster; and one to raise \$2,500, to pave the street from the court house to the jail in East Greenwich.



J. H. Brigham hereby certifies that in case the  
Managers of the Grand-Street Lottery, vary other  
Persons shall claim payment of the general offering, to  
which he has given his name, to remunerate their advances  
by selling, on 2d Street, all the Exhenses of his Lottery, I will receive  
the Balance due to me from said Managers in such other  
manner, & in such place as I shall be directed.

J. H. Brigham

(Recd. recd. by Mr. Ross)



Providence 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 1835

Whereas I Sam'l Shurtleff " have this Day Rec'd an obligation  
Signed by Stephen Randall & Ben'ld Husted, witness they engage  
to pay to Long & Ward that stands against me the sum of one  
hundred & 75 cents only and on a day to come to charge that  
I am Rodriguez, Bank & Clark against the managers of Long &  
Ward & Company the sum in full & meaning of which obligation  
is to pay to Long & Ward a sum of money now standing after  
the interest due & payable may be granted to Sam'l Rodriguez  
Being a sum of money received to allow to pay to  
Sam'l Rodriguez of Long & Ward & Company, then the obligation  
is to remain good & in full force & credit & nothing is now due  
shall not be granted by the above named Bank & Company the obligation to be  
as well & valid

I am, & Shurtleff your S,

John S. Shurtleff



In February, 1796, the Beneficent Congregational Society were authorized to raise \$2,300 because the alteration of the street opposite the meeting house endangered the town and foundations; and "for cogent reasons assigned," Rhode Island College was empowered to raise a sum not exceeding \$25,000, for the use of the colleges.

The Committee for directing the Management of Rhode Island College Lottery having received information that a larger number of Tickets has been returned than was suspected, and not having obtained information respecting the sale of many sent abroad and wishing to secure the laudable object of the Lottery in a more ample manner than present circumstances authorize, have suspended the Drawing for a short time and adopted such measures for the sale of Tickets as they Judge will be effectual and enable them speedily and punctually to accomplish the business of the Lottery. The Friends of the College, and Patrons of Literature are requested to favour the corporation with their friendly assistance on this occasion.

In behalf of the Committee,

JONATHAN MAXCY,

*President of Rhode Island College.*

A grant was also made to raise \$4,000, to rebuild Whipple's Bridge over Pawtucket River. In October, 1796, permission was given to raise \$2,000, to finish



the meeting house of the Catholic Baptist Society in Pawtucket.

In January, 1798, after several continuances the directors of the Foster meeting house Lottery representing that there had been errors in the drawing, were authorized to draw the same anew; and the United Congregational Society in Barrington were granted a lottery to raise \$3,000 to complete their house of worship.

In June, 1800, the Episcopal Church in Bristol was granted a lottery to raise \$4,000, to build a glebe house on the farm near their church and for the payment of debts and repairs; also the First Congregational Society of Newport to raise \$2,000.

In February, 1801, came one to raise \$2,500, to build an academy in the town of South Kingstown.

In February, 1802, the Catholic Baptist Society of Pawtucket was granted a lottery to raise \$3,000—two-thirds of which was to be a perpetual fund for the support of a minister.

At the May session, 1802, the managers of the Chepachet road lottery were exonerated from their bonds on condition of appropriating the balance in their hands—\$146—to the benefit of the highway.

In February, 1803, new managers were appointed for the Martin's Wading Place Bridge Lottery; and St. John's Lodge of Masons in Newport was authorized to raise \$2,500,—towards their building. The remaining \$1,000 of the Catholic Baptist Lottery was appropriated to increase the fund for the support of a minister.



At the May session the Trustees of Washington Academy were empowered to raise the sum of \$5,000.

In October, 1803, a lottery to raise \$4,000, was granted to repair the road from Smithfield to Worcester county, by Wallum Pond. Also one to the Providence and Norwich Turnpike Society to raise \$10,000 to repair its road.

Five lotteries were granted in February, 1804: one for \$1,000—to be laid out on the road from Douglas to Providence; one for \$600—to rebuild Union bridge in Coventry; one to raise \$1,200—for a building suitable for a school house on week days and a meeting house on Sundays near Cory's Pond in East Greenwich; one to raise \$2,000—for a similar house, also to be used as a town house, in Charlestown; and one to raise \$8,000—for deepening the channel of Apponaug River from the bay to the Fulling Mills and to improve the road leading westward from the village.

In October, 1804, lotteries were granted for \$4,000 to repair the Cumberland road to Worcester; for \$2,500 to build a town house on Noose Neck hill in West Greenwich; and for \$2,000—to repair the road from Warren to Bristol Ferry.

In February, 1805, \$1,200 for finishing a meeting house and school house at Hopkinton City and the petition of inhabitants of Wickford for one of \$600, to build a bridge from the Salt Water creek to Elamsville was continued, with order of notice by publication.



LOTTERY, for repairing and finishing the Meeting-House of the Union Baptist Society in John street.

This Ticket entitles the  
No. 1234567890 to

Possessor to such PRIZE as may be drawn against its Number, agreeably to an Act of the Legislature of the State of Rhode-Island, passed at June Session, 1805. Subject to a Deduction of Twelve and Half per Cent.

per cent. B  
Mr. G. L. Dyer, Manager.

[Endorsed on the Back.]

Mr. T. T. Bell's, Esq.,  
between Frank Brown &  
Collie Jones



In May, 1805, additional classes were allowed for the Frenchtown Catholic seminary lottery to raise the sum originally granted.

In June, 1805, came a grant to the Union Baptist Society of Johhston to raise \$1,000—for repairing and finishing their meeting house; and also grants for \$600 to repair the road from Miller's Landing across Price's Hill to Sterling, Ct.; for \$1,000 for the bridge at Wickford, which had been continued from the February session; and for \$600, to build a school house at a place called the Four Corners in South Kingstown.

In February, 1806, the managers of the Warwick road lottery were empowered to alter their scheme; and a lottery was granted to raise \$1,800 to repair a public road in East Greenwich.

In June, 1806, a lottery was granted to raise \$8,000—to repair the road from Providence to Worcester, and the Baptist Society of Cranston was authorized to raise \$2,500, to buy a lot and build a meeting house.

In October, 1806, permission was given to raise \$3,000—to enlarge the stock of books and to repair the edifice of the Redwood Library in Newport.

In May, 1807, authority was given to the Methodist Congregation in Newport to raise \$8,000—for its benefit.

In October, 1807, on the petition of John Slater and others, a grant to raise \$4,000 to build a meeting house in Smithfield.

In February, 1808, \$700—to complete the repairs on Pawtucket Bridge.



In May, 1808, on petition of Perkins Nichols, to raise \$1,000—to defray expenses in searching for coal, to be known as the R. I. Coal Lottery.

In October, 1808, a grant was made to the Warwick and Coventry Baptist Society to raise \$2,000—for arrearages due for building their house of worship; also to raise \$875—to erect an academy in North Providence on the Smithfield turnpike; and to the Smithfield Academic Society to raise \$2,000.

In June, 1809, a permission to build a bridge across the river about one mile above the village of Pawtucket and to raise a sum of money for that purpose was continued with order of notice; and in October a grant was made to Benjamin W. Case of Newport, who "had incurred heavy responsibilities in searching for coal on the island of Rhode Island with flattering appearances that the fruits of his enterprise, if persevered in, will be attended with much public utility," to raise \$1,000 for his relief.

In February, 1810, a lottery was granted to raise \$1,500 for a building for the use of the Smithfield Academy.

In June, 1811, a lottery was granted to raise \$10,000 to build a stone pier at the landing at Block Island to make a spacious and secure harbor for vessels; and in October to Brown University to raise \$2,000 to build a house for the steward and generally to promote the various objects of the institution; also to the Catholic



*Smithfield Meeting-House Lottery.*

**FOURTH CLASS, NO.**

THIS TICKET shall entitle the bearer to receive the prize that may be drawn against its number, agreeably to an act of the Legislature of the State of Rhode-Island, passed at October session, 1807.—Subject to a deduction of 12 1-2 per cent.

*A. Daniels, Manager of the Meeting-House Lottery.*

*Smithfield Academy Lottery.*

*Second Class.*

*N. Smith*

THIS TICKET will entitle the Bearer to such Prize as may be drawn against its Number; agreeably to an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Rhode-Island.—*Subject to no Deduction.*

*P. Daniels, Manager.*

SMITHFIELD, (R. I.) December, 1810.



Baptist Society in Pawtucket to raise \$2,500 for enlarging and repairing their meeting house. In February, 1812, a grant to raise \$2,200 was made for building the Academy in Smithfield; also to the Aquidneck Coal Company to raise \$30,000, the company relinquishing all right to raise any sum under the previous grant to Benj. W. Case and obtaining permission from the Legislature of New York to sell tickets within that State. In June, 1812, the act was amended by requiring \$20,000 of the amount raised to be expended in working the mines within this State and declaring that the condition requiring consent of the Legislature of New York was made upon the supposition of a law of that State prohibiting the sale of tickets in lotteries granted by other States.

Authority was also given to Elisha Waterman, Benj. G. Dexter, Timothy W. Dexter and Benj. I. Walcott to raise \$12,000, to dig and explore for coal in Cumberland. In October, 1812, the Rhode Island Coal Co. was empowered to raise \$40,000.

In February, 1813, authority was given to the Second Baptist Society to raise \$2,000 for "repairing their meeting house and lot.

In June, 1813, the amount granted to the Rhode Island Coal Company was reduced from \$40,000 to \$30,000.

In June, 1814, a lottery was granted to St. John's Church, Providence, to raise a sum not exceeding \$10,000, for the use of the Church.



## வினாவில் வருபாறை கீழ்க்கண்ட கேள்விகளுக்கு விடையளிப்பு.

First Class.

10

THIS TICKET entitles the holder to the Prize which may be drawn against  
this number, agreeably to an act of the Rhode-Island Legislature, February  
1813.

323.011

A PROVIDENCE, March, 1813. *Henry C. Hall, Manager.*

23

BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF RHODE-ISLAND.  
**THIRD CLASS of the Society's Lottery for the Encouragement of  
DOMESTIC INDUSTRY.**  
1 Prize of 10,000 is 10,000 ||

— Miller & Hutchens, Printers.

Smithfield, 1822.



At the October session, 1814, the First Baptist Church of Bristol was authorized to raise a sum not exceeding \$8,000 to pay a debt incurred by building a stone chapel.

In May, 1815, a lottery was granted to raise \$4,000 to be applied towards completing Water street (now Canal street) in Providence; first applying the proceeds to filling out said street fronting on the gaol wharf or lot belonging to the State.

In June, 1815, the report upon the Smithfield Academy lottery showed that on the first class there was a loss of \$450.43 and on the second class a gain of \$550.28; that the managers had paid over \$178 and there was therefore due to them \$78.15.

In October, 1815, the Rhode Island Bridge Co. was authorized to raise \$25,000 for rebuilding its bridge.

In February, 1816, the Attorney General was directed to prosecute all offenders against the lottery law, which had been passed in March, 1806, extending the law of 1732, so as to include lotteries not authorized by this State or by the Congress of the United States, and prohibiting lotteries authorized by any of the other States; also repealing all former acts. But in November, 1816, this act was repealed.

In October, 1820, the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry was authorized to raise the sum of \$12,000 by lottery.

In June, 1821, a lottery was granted to the Pacific Congregational Society (of Providence) to raise \$5,000.



In January, 1822, the Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council of the city of Washington petitioned for an act authorizing the sale of tickets in any lottery for public purposes in that city, to which the Secretary of State was directed to reply that there is no law of this State prohibiting the sale of tickets in any authorized lottery. This reply was due to the fact that the lottery law had been repealed in November, 1816. But at the same session venders of foreign lottery tickets were required to obtain a license from the town council and to pay a license fee of \$100. In the digest of 1822, adopted at the same session, is "An act for suppressing private Lotteries," put forth without leave of the General Assembly; and also at this session a law was passed requiring a license and fee of \$100 to be paid by venders of foreign lottery tickets.

In June, 1822, the Free Will Baptist Church of Smithfield was authorized to raise \$2,000 by lottery to erect a house of worship; and in October the West Baptist Society of Providence was authorized to raise \$3,000 for the same purpose, and the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry was authorized to raise \$8,000 in addition to that authorized in October, 1820.

In January, 1823, the inhabitants of Old Warwick were authorized to raise \$7,000 to aid them in erecting houses of worship and the education of youth; also inhabitants of Burrillville to raise \$2,000, to repair Buck



SECOND BAPTIST SOCIETY'S LOTTERY,

BY THE TOWN OF CORTENY.

SCHEME.

1 prize of \$ 700	is \$ 700
1 prize of 301	301
2 prizes of 400	400
4 prizes of 200	200
4 prizes of 100	100
6 prizes of 50	300
10 prizes of 30	300
20 prizes of 20	400
20 prizes of 10	200
733 prizes of 5	3665
217 prizes.	666
1435 Blanks.	
2222 tickets, \$3 each,	6666

Printed at the American Office

DANIEL C. GOFF,  
NATHAN K. STONE, { Managers  
ASA STONE,

THIS TICKET will entitle the holder to such Prize as may be drawn, against its number, if demanded within nine months after the drawing is completed, subject to a deduction of fifteen per cent. — payable in ninety days after the completion of the drawing.

Providence, 15:1.

Johnathan H. C. Stone Manager.

I purchased this ticket very much  
against my views of honest  
and like him, who would be in  
any thing else hope to gain by it  
for each ticket



Hill Road. In June, and by amendment in October, 1823, a lottery was granted to raise \$8,000 to straighten the road to Worcester, in Smithfield, up to the line of Mendon.

January, 1824, Second Baptist Society in Coventry \$500, to repair meeting house and yard; October, 1824, town of Portsmouth, \$1,000, to make a road over the beach to Charity Bridge and to repair the bridge; January, 1825, town of Coventry, \$1,000, to build a bridge over the outlet to Johnson's Pond; Fourth Baptist Society of Providence, to raise \$2,000; May, 1825, Six Principle Baptists of Scituate to raise \$1,000 for completion of meeting house; June, 1825, \$5,000 to erect a bridge across Blackstone river, near the Centre Falls in Smithfield; \$2,500 to build Society's Meeting House in Scituate; \$2,000 to erect a wharf in Church's Cove, Little Compton; Redwood Library, of Newport, to raise \$6,000 instead of \$3,000, granted October, 1806; town of Newport, \$10,000 for the support of public schools; October, 1825, \$4,000 for Union Meeting House in Westerly; Providence Franklin Society, \$10,000; \$1,500 for building in Richmond to be used as a school-house and meeting-house; Washington Lodge of Masons, \$4,000, to build a Masons' Hall in Wickford.

In May, 1826, the managers of all lotteries authorized since 1819 were directed to make a full report to the next session of the Assembly.

In June, 1826, the Managers of Union Bridge and



Coventry Baptist Lotteries having omitted to make report as required by this law, were granted leave to do so at the next session.

An act, also, was passed by which all lotteries theretofore granted were to expire January 1st, 1830; none were to be sold for a *bonus* of less than ten per cent.; all drawn after January 1st, 1827, were to pay a tax of one *per cent.* on the scheme, and all foreign lottery tickets sold in this State were to pay the same tax. This act was amended in June, 1827, by directing the General Treasurer to issue his warrant of distress against those who should neglect or refuse to pay said tax within ten days from the drawing. He was also directed to inquire into violation of said act and to commence prosecutions therefor.

Venders of foreign lottery tickets were required to give bonds and to make returns by an act passed January, 1828. A committee was appointed to superintend the drawing of the lottery of the Free Will Baptist Society in Smithfield. A report on the Buck Hill Road lottery was presented in June, 1828. The first receipt of money on sales of lottery tickets appears in the General Treasurer's report, May, 1827, of Josiah C. Shaw, \$17.99.

In the following October the report shows a large increase in such receipts.

In October, 1828, a petition for a lottery to erect a free bridge over the Seekonk river between Central and India bridges, was continued to the next session, with order of notice by publication.



BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF RHODE-ISLAND.

**Union Meeting-House Lottery,**

SECOND CLASS.

IN THE TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH.

SCHEME.	Prizes of \$ 100	is	\$ 900
	50	200	200
4	20	300	PELEG ALMY
15	10	400	S. B. CORNELL,
40	5	1500	SAMUEL CLARKE
300	—	—	BORDEN SLOCUM
			\$ 3300
	368 prizes		
	732 blanks		
	—		
	1100 tickets at \$ 3 each, \$ 3300		

**No. 200**  
Man'gers

—

368 prizes  
732 blanks  
—  
1100 tickets at \$ 3 each, \$ 3300

Portsmouth, Feb. 1824. *B. Field & Co. Managers.*

BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF RHODE-ISLAND.

**WEST BAPTIST SOCIETY'S LOTTERY,**

**FOURTH CLASS.**

SCHEME.	Prize of \$ 2,000	is	2000
2	—	500	is 1000
1	—	300	is 300
10	—	100	is 1600
20	—	50	is 1000
20	—	20	is 400
500	—	10	is 5000
1550	—	6	is 9300
			\$20,000
	2104 Prizes,		
	1896 Blanks,		
	4000 tickets at \$5 each \$20,000		

B. FIELD & CO. PRINTERS.

1550 — — — 6 is 9300

\$20,000

2104 Prizes,

1896 Blanks,

4000 tickets at \$5 each \$20,000

Providence, 1824. *B. Field & Co. Managers.*



In October, 1829, James Stevens of Newport was authorized to raise \$2,000, to aid him in publishing a map of the State.

In January, 1830, the managers of the Free Bridge Lottery (across the Blackstone, near Central Falls, in Smithfield) were discharged from their liability to the State for tax by paying a smaller sum; and similar action was taken in the case of Chauncey Shephard, for selling foreign lottery tickets without a license.

The bonus for which managers might dispose of their schemes was reduced to one and a half per cent, and an act was passed for the regulation of lotteries, requiring managers to give bonds, and to advertise schemes; requiring the Secretary of State to superintend the drawings; and repealing all acts in force on December 31<sup>st</sup> preceding. Four lotteries were granted at this time; to the Second Baptist Society in Coventry, to raise \$600; to the Providence Franklin Society to raise \$3,000; to the R. I. Historical Society to raise \$5,000, "to aid them in the objects for which they were incorporated;" and to James Stevens of Newport to draw any number of classes in the lottery granted to him, not exceeding twenty. Authority was also given to Messrs. Johnson & Davenport of Boston, as agents for the managers, to draw two classes of the Warwick and Coventry Baptist Church and Society Lottery. Four lotteries were granted in May, 1830; to the Universalist Society of North Providence \$4,000; to Asa Church and others to make



a breach between Charlestown Pond and the ocean, \$4,000; to Providence Bar Library \$3,000, and to Newport Artillery Co. \$800 to erect an armory. An act was also passed allowing licenses to sell lottery tickets to be transferred.

In June, 1830, an act was passed prohibiting the sale of tickets in lotteries not authorized by Congress or by any of the United States.

In October the Secretary of State was directed to prohibit the drawing of any further classes in a lottery when he had reason to believe the money had been raised which was authorized in the grant.

The report of the General Treasurer at the October session shows that the receipts by the State for the three preceding years had been :

From Managers of lotteries granted by the State,	\$39,033 60
" sale of foreign lottery tickets, . . .	1,783 09
" license for dealers in lottery tickets, . . .	2,700 00
	<hr/> \$43,516 69

This shows that the amount of the schemes on which the tax was paid for three years was upwards of \$4,000,000. Under the act to establish Public Schools passed January, 1828, all money paid into the general treasury on account of lotteries and auctioneers was set apart as a school fund to be paid over to the towns in proportion to the number of children under the age of 16.



# WASHINGTON LODGE LOTTERY,

FIRST CLASS.

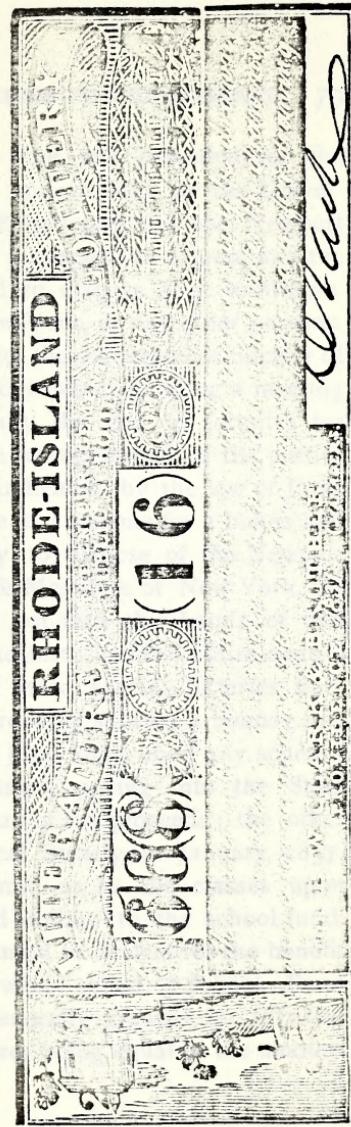
BY AUTHORITY

QUARTER

NUMBER

THIS TICKET will entitle the holder thereof to ONE QUARTER of such Prize as may be drawn to its number, agreeably to an act of the General Assembly of Rhode-Island, passed October Session, 1825, if presented within twelve months after the completion of the drawing—subject to a deduction of 15 per cent.

WICKFORD 1896





In January, 1831, the time was extended for the Charlestown Pond lottery; and in May for the Universalist Society of North Providence and the Newport Artillery. This last was increased to \$1,200, and the Managers were authorized to dispose of it to Messrs. Yates & McIntyre of New York, or any other persons. A grant was also made to the Universalist Society of Woonsocket to raise \$3,000, towards building a meeting house. This was practically the end of lotteries for special objects, under the management of the parties interested in them. As indicated by the law of June, 1826, recognizing the sale of a scheme for a bonus and by the foregoing authority to dispose of the Newport Artillery Lottery to Yates & McIntyre of New York, the business of lotteries had got into the hands of professional dealers, who thenceforth had the entire control of it. Only two more of these special lotteries were granted, and these were probably sold for a bonus; one to the Newport Artillery in June, 1833, upon any scheme, not exceeding fifty-two classes, paying into the State treasury ten thousand dollars of the proceeds.; the other was to the R. I. Historical Society, in January, 1857, for two years, without limit as to the classes upon payment of four thousand dollars to the school fund. All other lotteries were granted to dealers for the benefit of public schools, and were called "School Fund Lotteries." They were generally granted for fifty-two classes, one a week, the prizes being equal to the amount



of the tickets, but subject to a reduction of fifteen *per cent.* For each lottery ten thousand dollars was paid into the State treasury for the school fund. The managers gave bond to the General Treasurer and the Secretary of State superintended the drawing. The first of these grants was to William Dinneford, in May, 1831; then in June, 1831, to Yates & McIntyre, and to John L. Clark. At this time an act was passed requiring a license to sell domestic lottery tickets.

In January, 1832, a grant was made to Paine & Burgess; in June, 1832, to Yates & McIntyre; in January, 1833, to Paine & Burgess; in June, 1833, to Yates & McIntyre; in June, 1834, to Yates & McIntyre. Concerning this grant of June, 1834, we have this interesting debate in the House of Representatives. These gentlemen were again in the General Assembly asking for a new grant for a Lottery "to raise money in aid of the school fund." This grant was opposed by Mr. Daniel G. Harris, a member for Smithfield, and favored by Mr. Christopher Allen, a member for North Kingstown. Then Mr. Allen wished to know what the object of the gentleman (Mr. Harris) was in having it (the Lottery grant) laid upon the table; if they did not pass some act like this they would be obliged to resort to a Bank or Land Tax to supply the Treasury. Mr. Harris believed that the people of the State would prefer to submit to a Land Tax than to continue the Lottery system. Mr. C. Allen would be glad to have gentlemen come here free



610

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This Ticket will entitle the holder to **QUARTER** of such prize as may be drawn to its numbers, if demanded within twelve months after the drawing; subject to a deduction of fifteen per cent. to be drawn forty days after the drawing. **QUARTER**, **PROVIDENCE, 1840**; a Sept 16. For JAMES PHALEN & Co. Managers.

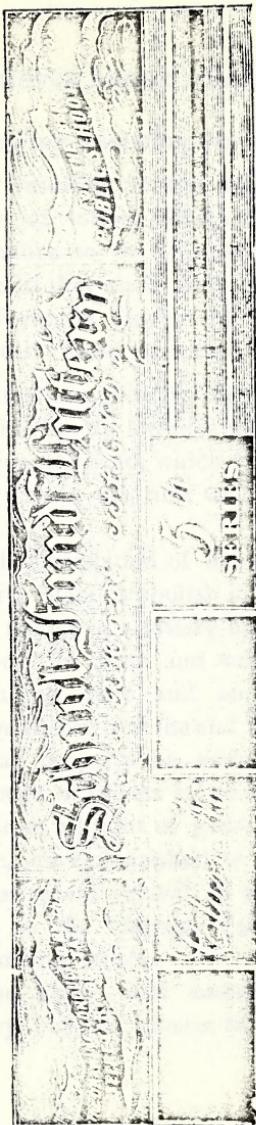
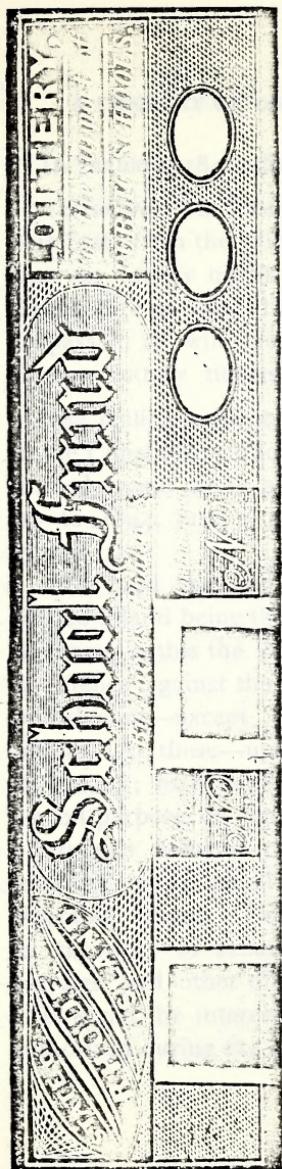


from their hobbies; one has a Free Suffrage hobby; another a State Prison hobby; another a hobby of putting down lotteries; he (Mr. C. Allen) came here free to act for the good of the State; he should like to know how they were to get along without money. Mr. James Allen (who was a colleague of Mr. C. Allen) from North Kingstown viewed this mode of raising money a species of gambling; the great extent to which the evil had penetrated certainly did not lessen the wrong, nor did the sanction of the General Assembly lessen it; Mr. Allen here presented figures to show that the sum received by the State was extremely small compared with the amount actually taken from the people under this system; he did not wish to rob the people in this way; but was for the immediate and total abolition of lotteries. Mr. Harris contended that the whole profits did not all go to the grantees, but that part of them went to the agents of these grantees, the dealers in tickets; still the people were defrauded by the system, just as much as though all the profits went to the grantees; were defrauded to a great amount; but that this was not his strongest objection; the worst feature was that it was in its nature a gambling system; of a kind done secretly, so secretly that a man's own family could not know that he was concerned in it until his property was squandered. Mr. Elisha R. Potter, member for South Kingstown, expressed his belief that the lottery business was a very iniquitous kind of business, and moved that the bill be laid on the



table, which motion prevailed. Two days later, Mr. C. Allen called up the bill. Mr. Harris opposed, urging that the time to stop lotteries had come. Mr. Joseph L. Tillinghast, of Providence, assumed that there was a general feeling in the community against the granting ; the General Assembly did not make the evil, they found it in existence, and had rendered it subservient to the most general good ; they had appropriated it expressly to the education of the children of the State ; that was the most wholesome use which could be made of it ; a large proportion of the common school fund was derived from lotteries ; his difficulty was whether they ought to stop that proportion before they had provided a supply from another source ; he was afraid if they left this fund without any aid from this source the free school system of this State would go down. Mr. Jonah Titus, member for Scituate, then spoke in favor of the Lottery, and it passed. January, 1835, to Philip Case, for a term of four years and the payment of ten thousand dollars annually. In January, 1839, the grant was renewed for five years, ending April 1, 1844, on the payment of \$9,000 per year, and the grant to the Rhode Island Historical Society was repealed with the consent of the purchaser thereof. This was the last grant of a lottery in this State. An act was passed in January, 1836, for commencing new series annually ; and in January, 1837, to allow the drawing of the school fund lottery in other places than Providence.







In January, 1840, the following resolution was passed :

*“Resolved*, That the evils resulting to the citizens of this State from the purchase of lottery tickets are such that no lottery ought in future to be granted by the Legislature of this State; and that such laws ought to be passed as will most effectually prevent the sale of foreign lottery tickets in this State in future.”

The feeling against lotteries was growing rapidly and in the Constitution adopted in 1842 all lotteries were prohibited except those already authorized, which extended up to 1844, just a century from the time of the first grant.

Here was the end of the legislation of the system, Rhode Island being the fourth State to abolish it. From that time to this the sale of tickets in a lottery has been an offence against the laws of the State and subject to punishment—except at church fairs and charitable bazaars. At these—upon the theory that the end justifies the means; that the law may properly be violated for a good purpose, or that the sale of tickets by pious and pretty girls redeems them from all taint of gambling,—lotteries, on a small scale, have flourished to a considerable extent. The most recent revival of them is in the way of excursions to the Chicago Fair, and bicycles and other things in drug stores.

It would be interesting to know what amount was authorized during the century, but this cannot be ascer-



tained ; for in some cases no amount was named and in many cases only the amount to be realized was stated. In the first twenty-five years it is possible to make a very close estimate and in that period, few and poor as were the inhabitants, the grants amounted to about \$1,250,000—and we have seen that in the three years from 1827 to 1830 they were over \$4,000,000. After the business got into the hands of professional dealers, paying so much a year for their privilege, we have no means of knowing the amount of their schemes. Of course not all these grants were used and some not in full, while others were not successful, and the price of tickets was returned to purchasers. For example this Society received a grant to raise \$3,000, in January, 1830, and also the grant for two years in 1837. But in the Proceedings for 1872-3 it is stated that the total cost of this building was \$4,750, which was raised both by subscription and lottery. The whole of the first grant, therefore, probably was not realized.

Yet, with due allowance for such cases, enough appears to show what a vampire this system had become and to what extent it preyed upon the people. As in other cases of licenses and monopolies, a sop was thrown to the public in the last sixteen years, by contributions to the school fund, which amounted to over \$200,000 ; out of which in 1844, when lotteries were stopped, a permanent school fund of \$51,300 had been retained. Upon the adoption of the constitutional prohibition of lotteries,



it was claimed that it related only to domestic lotteries and still allowed the sale of foreign tickets. This called forth such a vigorous protest from the people in 1846, that the law was established, as it has since been maintained, forbidding all dealing in lotteries in this State. Since then, no doubt, there has been some secret dealing in lottery tickets, but it has ceased to be a serious public evil.

It would be interesting, if there were time, to follow the advertisements of lotteries ; but a few extracts may serve to illustrate the efforts to spur on cupidity and arouse zeal. The common catchwords were: "Now is the time to fill your bags!" "Nothing venture, nothing have!" "Now is the time to secure a chance for a handsome fortune at the low price of \$8.50!" "Delays are dangerous!" "Money made easy!" "Try your luck these hard times!"

Other advertisements were somewhat elaborate :

"PUBLIC WORSHIP ENCOURAGED."

Scheme by the 2d Baptist Church, of Providence,

April, 1813.

"When the managers reflect that the above scheme is admirably well calculated to give adventurers a fair opportunity of obtaining a number of valuable prizes and that almost everyone in this enlightened land will feel a lively interest in the promotion of an undertaking so laudable and important as that of establishing, at this



alarming crisis of the affairs of our country, a stated place for the promulgation of the blessed Gospel of Peace, which teaches the soldier to be content with such wages as he receives, Cæsar to rule in the fear of God, and his constituents to render unto Him his due, and unto God the things which belong to Him, they cannot but anticipate a rapid sale of their tickets."

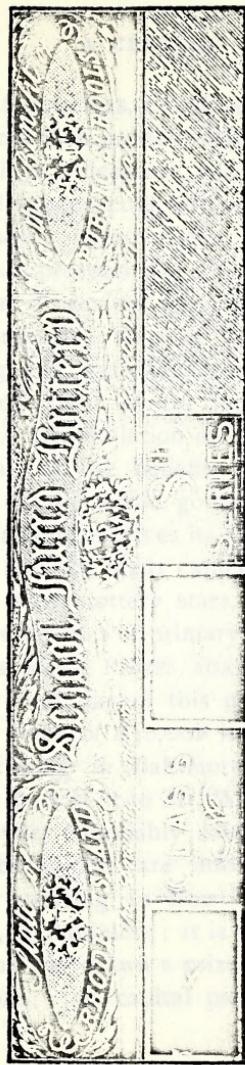
I think this may be commended to teachers of rhetoric as a model of anti-climax.

#### THE DOMESTIC INDUSTRY LOTTERY IN 1821.

[From the *Providence Gazette*.]

"When the citizens of the State reflect that the proceeds of this lottery will not be appropriated to the exclusive benefit of a particular district or sect; to the building of a meeting house or bridge or the endowment of an academy, but applied to the encouragement of agriculture, manufactures and the mechanic arts, by the distribution of rewards to the most industrious and enterprising in those departments of Domestic Industry, they will not fail to appreciate the motives which have induced the Society to make the present appeal to their generosity. The contributions which other States levy upon our citizens by the sale of lottery tickets amount yearly to a large sum, which is carried beyond the limits of the State and never returns. Not so the sum to be raised by the present lottery. It will remain among us to diffuse its benefits throughout the community. They







flatter themselves, therefore, that this lottery will experience from their patriotic fellow citizens all the encouragement which it deserves, and that the Society will thus be enabled to prosecute with success and utility those plans of domestic improvement, on the completion of which the future prosperity of the State so much depends."

A firm of dealers advertise in June, 1807, that "from a retrospective view of business, for four years, very pleasing and grateful sensations arise, and draw from them reflections of the most pure, rational and exalted kind. A recapitulation of our lottery business will convince all of the benefit of paying their devoirs in the temple of the fickle goddess of Fortune at their office. 'The diamond receives its lustre from the labor bestowed on it ;' and the many capital prizes sold by G. & D. are like so many lottery stars, which will be considered by the knowing ones of primary magnitude and brightness."

"THE HIGH PRIZES AGAIN FROM WAITE'S OFFICE.—On the first day of this month (April) was drawn the capital prize of \$30,000 in the Trinity Church Lottery, now drawing in Baltimore ; it was sold in shares of tickets; part of it to Mr. Workinger, blacksmith, part to Mr. Soyder (probably soft solder), brass founder ; the fortunate holders are informed that they may receive cash by applying in New York, or Albany, or Philadelphia, or Baltimore ; it is worthy of remark that on the same day was drawn a prize of \$5,000 to a gentleman in Baltimore ; the capital prize of \$20,000 ; and one of



\$30,000, both sent from their office in Boston; as was also a \$30,000 in the last Susquehanna lottery sent from their office in Providence." This is simply a huge falsehood—note the name and the time—April Fool's day.—(*Newport Mercury*, 23 April, 1814.)

"TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR ONLY \$2.75.—Washington Canal and Rhode Island State Lottery, (1826.)—To be drawn at the State House in this Town. I. B. Wood, agent for Yates & McIntyre."

"NEWPORT METHODIST CHAPEL, (1807.)—Now is the time to make your fortune. \* \* \* It is presumed that those who wish to encourage religion, laying aside the prospect of a fortune, will call and purchase liberally."—(Hist. Pub. Education, p. 33.)

"GREAT LUCK AT THE R. I. STATE LOTTERY OFFICE. (1826.)—No. 57 combination 1, 3, 12, a prize of \$1,000; No. 2,661, combination 3, 12, 29, a prize of \$1,000; No. 467, combination 1, 12, 44, a prize of \$500; No. 2,679 combination, 3, 12, 47, a prize of \$500. All the above very decent prizes were sold at I. L. Clark's. The two last mentioned prizes, of \$500 each, were both sold to one person, an industrious and enterprising young mechanic of THIS TOWN, who received the cash for the same in a very few minutes after the drawing.

"HIGHLY IMPORTANT.—On Monday last, in Boston, No. 18,816, in the 7th class of Harvard College Lottery,



came up a prize of \$20,000 and was sold to George W. Martin, of this town, sometime after the commencement of the drawing of the Lottery by J. C. Shaw, at his *Truly Fortunate* Lottery office, where have been sold in the short space of thirteen months, besides many other capital prizes, two tickets which have drawn the enormous sum of \$35,000. Those in pursuit of an independent Fortune, will do well in future to call, etc., \* \* \* where the Goddess of Fortune has pledged herself to distribute favors with a liberal hand."—(*R. I. Republican*, Newport, 21 Jan., 1813.)

"IN THIS GRAND SUSQUEHANNA LOTTERY there are 26,000 tickets, but only 13,000 numbers, being two tickets of one number; the two capital prizes of \$30,000 must fall to one number; and so with the two \$20,000 prizes, so that a person buying two tickets of one number may draw the enormous sum of (\$100,000) one hundred thousand Dollars—*Present price of Tickets, \$11.*"—(*Rhode Island Republican*, Newport, 10 Sept., 1812.)

Just a century of lotteries. What a history is held within its compass! What we see in the record is the accomplishment of a number of public enterprises and the aid of religious, benevolent and educational works which might otherwise have been long delayed. Not on account of the poverty of the times, for the money spent in lotteries refutes this idea; but for want of the stimulus



which the lottery afforded. It seemed to be a pleasant substitute for taxation and a harmless expedient for a good result. But there is an unwritten record which we do not see. If we could lift the veil of the century and paint a picture of all its details, what visions of wealth; what castles in the air; what day dreams of fortunes; what wearisome unrest; what long deferred hopes; what blighted anticipations; what luring temptations; what yieldings to wrong; what bitter disappointments; what sickening despair; what agony of remorse; what sorrowful povertyes; what miserable ruins; what wretched suicides would crowd the canvas with hideous shapes and infernal hues. It took a long time to see that the evil outweighed the good and that the public gain was no compensation for the public and private injury. But, as in all moral reforms, the time came when the system was seen in its true light, and, though it then seemed to be more strongly intrenched than ever, the will of the people was at last aroused, and it was banished from one State after another, even up to the action of Congress in the past year; until now we may reasonably trust that the age of lotteries has passed.

In illustration of the working of these later lotteries, on the ternary principle, that is by the principle of threes, we here introduce a chapter from Mr. Thomas Doyle's *Five Years in a Lottery Office*. Mr. Doyle says: "Tickets on the ternary combination principle, are



formed by combining a certain number of numbers in numerical order, three on each ticket, until the combinations are all exhausted. Let us take for example 78 numbers, from 1 up to 78: the first combination will be 1, 2, 3; the second, 1, 2, 4; the third, 1, 2, 5, and so on up to 1, 2, 78; the next series will be 1, 3, 4; 1, 3, 5; 1, 3, 6; 1, 3, 7, etc., to 1, 3, 78; begin again with 1, 4, 5; 1, 4, 6; 1, 4, 7; 1, 4, 8, etc., to 1, 4, 78; pursue this operation until *one* is made the first of a series of combinations, with every two numbers below 78; and the last combination which *one* enters into will be 1, 77, 78; the next step is to make number 2 the first of a series of combinations, viz.: 2, 3, 4; 2, 3, 5; 2, 3, 6; 2, 3, 7, etc., to 2, 3, 78; then 2, 4, 5; 2, 4, 6; 2, 4, 7; 2, 4, 8, etc., to 2, 4, 78; proceed thus until 2, 77, 78 is reached; then begin with 3, 4, 5; 3, 4, 6; 3, 4, 7; 3, 4, 8, etc.; to 3, 4, 78; next comes 4, 5, 6; 4, 5, 7; 4, 5, 8; 4, 5, 9, etc., to 4, 5, 78; this operation is to be pursued until 76, 77, 78 is formed, being the last combination; and we have as a result 76,076 combinations, or tickets. The same course is to be pursued, whether the number used to make the lottery be 66, 72, or 75, which yield a smaller number of tickets, or 90 numbers, which make nearly twice as many.

“It now remains to adapt a scheme to these combinations, and for that purpose we will take one formed by the managers.



## "DELAWARE STATE LOTTERY,

"For the State Treasury, Delaware College, and Common Schools. Drawn at Wilmington, Del., Feb. 24, 1841. D. S. Gregory & Co., Managers.

## SPLENDID SCHEME.

1 of \$10,000	.	.	.	\$10,000
1 2,500	.	.	.	2,500
1 1,250	.	.	.	1,250
10 1,000	.	.	.	10,000
10 500	.	.	.	5,000
20 200	.	.	.	4,000
twelve 40	100	.	.	4,000
forty 50	80	.	.	4,000
seventy 87	50	.	.	4,350
sixty 66	30	.	.	1,980
66 20	.	.	.	1,320
66 16	.	.	.	1,056
thirteen 132	10	.	.	1,320
4,026 6	.	.	.	24,156
25,740 3	.	.	.	77,220
<hr/>				
30,316 Prizes amounting to				\$152,152
45,760 Blanks.				<hr/>
76,076 whole number tickets, which at				
\$3 retail price, amount to	.	.	.	\$228,228
and at \$2 scheme price	.	.	.	152,152
leaving a profit to venders of	.	.	.	76,076



INDIA TODAY

**DRAWING  
OF THE  
RHODE-ISLAND  
LITERATURE LOTTERY.**

## For the Encouragement of Public Schools.

CLASS : : : : NUMBER : : : : FOUR.

STATE OF RHODE-ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,  
PROVIDENCE, JUNE 29, 1881.

Having superintended (according to law) the drawing of the Lottery granted by said State, for the encouragement of Public Schools, Class No. 4, I do hereby certify, that the following are the Nine numbers which were this day drawn from the six hundred deposited in the wheel, viz:

1st	2d	3d	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
<b>60</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>57</b>

And that the said numbers were drawn in the order in which they stand above; that is to say, No. 60 was the first drawn—No. 43 was the second—No. 22 was the third—No. 59 was the fourth—No. 56 was the fifth—No. 52 was the sixth—No. 16 was the seventh—No. 8 was the eighth—and No. 67 was the ninth and last. And that said Lottery was drawn this day, at Mechanics' Hall.

*Witness my hand,*

HENRY BOWEN, *Secretary of State.*

From the preceding certificate it will be seen what numbers were drawn from the wheel, for determining the prizes in the *RHODE-ISLAND LITERATURE LOTTERY*, For the Encouragement of Public Schools, Class number FOUR, with the order in which they were drawn, and the Mangers anxious to the public the following result.

The Tickets which drew the 54 Highest Prizes, are those having on them for combination numbers,

Dom. 11	22	45	60	being the	1st	2d	and	3d,					\$10,000					
No. 11	22	55	59	"	5d	4th	and	5th,					4,000					
Placed in	22	55	59	"	4th	6th	and	6th,					2,100					
Storage	22	55	59	"	7th	6th	and	9th,					1,465					
Order	22	45	60	"	1st	2d	and	4th,	45	55	60	being the	1st	2d	and	6th,		
	22	45	60	"	1st	2d	and	6th,	45	55	60	"	1st	2d	and	7th,		
	22	45	60	"	1st	2d	and	8th,	45	55	60	"	1st	2d	and	9th,		
	22	55	60	"	1st	3d	and	4th,	22	55	60	"	1st	3d	and	5th,		
	22	55	60	"	1st	3d	and	6th,	22	55	60	"	1st	3d	and	7th,		
	22	55	60	"	1st	3d	and	8th,	22	55	60	"	1st	3d	and	9th,	each,	1,000
	22	55	60	"	1st	4th	and	5th,	22	55	60	"	1st	4th	and	6th,		
	22	55	60	"	1st	4th	and	7th,	22	55	60	"	1st	4th	and	8th,		
	22	55	60	"	1st	4th	and	9th,	22	55	60	"	1st	5th	and	6th,		
	22	55	60	"	1st	5th	and	7th,	22	55	60	"	1st	5th	and	8th,		
	22	55	60	"	1st	5th	and	9th,	22	55	60	"	1st	6th	and	7th,		
	22	55	60	"	1st	6th	and	8th,	22	55	60	"	1st	6th	and	9th,		
	22	55	60	"	1st	7th	and	8th,	22	55	60	"	1st	7th	and	9th,	each,	600
	22	55	60	"	1st	8th	and	9th,	22	55	60	"	1st	8th	and	9th,		
	22	45	55	"	2d	3d	and	4th,	22	30	35	"	2d	3d	and	6th,		
	22	45	55	"	2d	3d	and	7th,	22	30	35	"	2d	3d	and	8th,		
	22	45	55	"	2d	3d	and	9th,	22	30	35	"	2d	4th	and	5th,		
	22	45	55	"	2d	4th	and	6th,	22	30	35	"	2d	4th	and	7th,		
	22	45	55	"	2d	4th	and	8th,	22	30	35	"	2d	4th	and	9th,		
	22	45	55	"	2d	5th	and	6th,	22	30	35	"	2d	5th	and	7th,		
	22	45	55	"	2d	5th	and	8th,	22	30	35	"	2d	5th	and	9th,		
	22	45	55	"	2d	6th	and	7th,	22	30	35	"	2d	6th	and	8th,		
	22	45	55	"	2d	6th	and	9th,	22	30	35	"	2d	6th	and	7th,		
	22	45	55	"	2d	7th	and	8th,	22	30	35	"	2d	7th	and	9th,	each,	200
	22	45	55	"	2d	8th	and	9th,	22	30	35	"	2d	9th	and	10th,		

Those 30 Tickets with any other three of the drawn numbers on them, each	160
Those 30 having on them 31 41, being the 1st and 2d drawn, each	100
Those 30 having on them 22 31, being the 3d and 4th drawn, each	50
Those 30 having on them 30 53, being the 5th and 6th drawn, each	40
Those 102 having on them 8 56, being the 7th and 8th, or 8 57, being the 8th and 9th drawn, each	20
All others, (being 1341) with two of the drawn numbers on each	10
And all others having on them only two of the drawn numbers, (being 11475)	5

E. W. CLARK & BROTHER, *Managers.*

Providence, June 29, 1831

**RHODE-ISLAND  
LITERATURE LOTTERY**

FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

**E. W. Clark & Brother, Managers.**

*By Authority of the State of Rhode-Island — To be deemed under the superintendence of the Secretary of said state, at Providence.*

**WEDNESDAY, July 6, 1831**

	SCHMELZ
1	\$10,000
1	4,000
1	3,000
1	2,535
1	1,000
40	500
10	400
10	300
10	200
10	100
5	60
5	50
5	40
5	30
5	20
5	16
1	8
1475	81,800

**13395 PRIZES,  
203.25 BLANKS.** **\$205.320**

SIXTY NUMBERS—NINE DRAWN BALLOON.	
That 14 having for its combination the 1st 2d and 5d drawn numbers will be entitled to the prize of	\$10,000
That one having out of the 4th 5th and 6th drawn numbers	4,000
That one having out of the 5th 6th and 7th drawn numbers	3,000
That ticket having out of the 7th 8th and 9th drawn numbers	2,500
Those 10 with the 1st 2d 3d 4th 5th, 1st 2d 6th, 1st 2d 7th, 1st 2d 8th, 1st 2d 9th, 1st 3d 4th 5th, 1st 3d 6th, 1st 3d 7th, 1st 3d 8th, 1st 3d 9th, 1st 4d 5th 6th, 1st 4d 6th 7th, 1st 4d 7th 8th, 1st 4d 8th 9th, 1st 5d 6th 7th, 1st 5d 7th 8th, 1st 5d 8th 9th, 1st 6d 7th 8th, 1st 6d 8th 9th, 1st 7d 8th 9th, 2d 3d 4th 5th, 2d 3d 6th 7th, 2d 3d 7th 8th, 2d 3d 8th 9th, 2d 4d 5th 6th, 2d 4d 6th 7th, 2d 4d 7th 8th, 2d 4d 8th 9th, 2d 5d 6th 7th, 2d 5d 7th 8th, 2d 5d 8th 9th, 2d 6d 7th 8th, 2d 6d 8th 9th, 2d 7d 8th 9th, 2d 8d 9th each	1,000
Those 10 with the 2d 5th 6th, 2d 5th 6th, 2d 6th 7th, 2d 6th 8th, 2d 6th 9th, 2d 7th 8th, 2d 7th 9th, 2d 8th 9th, 2d 9th each	600
Those 10 with the 3d 4th 5th, 3d 4th 6th, 3d 4th 7th, 3d 4th 8th, 3d 4th 9th, 3d 5th 6th, 3d 5th 7th, 3d 5th 8th, 3d 5th 9th, 3d 6th 7th, 3d 6th 8th, 3d 6th 9th, 3d 7th 8th, 3d 7th 9th, 3d 8th 9th each	400
Those 10 with the 3d 7th 8th, 3d 7th 9th, 3d 8th 9th, 4th 6th 7th, 4th 6th 8th, 4th 6th 9th, 4th 7th 8th, 4th 7th 9th, 4th 8th 9th each	300
Those 10 with the 4th 7th 8th, 4th 7th 9th, 4th 8th 9th, 5th 6th 7th, 5th 6th 8th, 5th 6th 9th, 5th 7th 8th, 5th 7th 9th, 5th 8th 9th each	200
Those 10 with the 1st 3d 7th, 1st 3d 8th, 1st 3d 9th, 1st 4d 7th, 1st 4d 8th, 1st 4d 9th, 1st 5d 7th, 1st 5d 8th, 1st 5d 9th, 1st 6d 7th, 1st 6d 8th, 1st 6d 9th, 1st 7d 8th, 1st 7d 9th, 1st 8d 9th each	100
Those 10 with the 3d 4th 5th, 3d 4th 6th, 3d 4th 7th, 3d 4th 8th, 3d 4th 9th, 3d 5th 6th, 3d 5th 7th, 3d 5th 8th, 3d 5th 9th, 3d 6th 7th, 3d 6th 8th, 3d 6th 9th, 3d 7th 8th, 3d 7th 9th, 3d 8th 9th each	60
Those 10 with the 7th 8th 9th, 8th 9th each	20
And all having 14 (475) being 1 drawn number on each	10
And all having 14 (475) being 1 drawn number on each	5

Wholes 88—Halves 84—Quarters 44—Eighths 84.

For Sale at This Office.



6th, being 10 in number, take each \$1,000. It is unnecessary to pursue the scheme any further; as the reader can easily see the manner in which the drawn numbers must be combined, three on each ticket, to receive the higher prizes. While to those tickets having but two drawn numbers on, the smaller prizes, including those of \$30, are awarded; and to those having but one drawn number on (\$25,740) the \$3 dollar prizes are allotted. *And all others, being 45,760, having none of the drawn numbers, are blanks.*

"A lottery of this description may be drawn in fifteen minutes' time. Whether it is as susceptible of fraud as the exploded system, the reader may judge for himself; but under that system, at least two-thirds of the tickets were required to be sold before the drawing began; while under the new mode, if the managers sell *one-thirtieth part* of the tickets, the business is considered perfectly safe; there must therefore be some element or chance in their favor, which the public have not yet been made acquainted with. Perhaps an examination of the scheme before us may afford a little light. We charge the managers as

Dr. To cash for 76,076 tickets at \$3 each, \$228,228 00

PER CONTRA.

Cr. By Prizes in scheme, \$152,152, less

15 per cent., . . . . .	129,329 20
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Amount carried forward . . . . .	\$129,329 20
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Amount brought forward . . . . .	\$129,329 20
By loss on above, the 15 per cent. \$22,822 80	
"do. vender's profit \$1 on	
each ticket, . . . . . 76,076 00	
Total loss to the public, . . . . .	<u>98,898 80</u>
	<u>\$228,228 00</u>

"Here then on a single scheme, containing less than \$130,000 to be distributed in prizes, we perceive that the purchasers must lose nearly \$100,000!!! or, in other words, to obtain \$129,329 the purchasers pay \$228,228.

"I may be told here, that all the tickets are not sold, and therefore that the Managers are compelled to take the risk of those unsold; this is true in part;—but so far from there being any hazard or risk attending the business, in the whole circle of trade I know of none based upon so much certainty. The Managers are certain to win, and the buyers of tickets are certain to lose."

\* \* \* \* \*

"During an intimate acquaintance of fifteen years with the Lottery, the last five of which were passed in a Lottery office, I have no recollection of having ever seen a capital prize. I have heard of two or three that were said to have been sold during that time, and probably such may have been the fact; but the impression left upon my mind, is of a vague and dreamy character."

\* \* \* \* \*



“ By the term *scheme price*, is to be understood that sum which the amount of money in the scheme, divided by the number of tickets, gives us a dividend; thus in a 66 number lottery the scheme having \$183,040 divided by 45,760, the number of tickets, gives as a result \$4, the price at which the venders receive the tickets; while the *retail price* is always published with the scheme.”

Mr. Doyle thus explains the “ package system,” which is frequently mentioned in the preceding narrative, thus:

“ Among all the contrivances which the ternary combination system has brought forth, there is none which can compare with the package system. Of a most specious and plausible appearance, and requiring a more intimate knowledge of the lottery than can be obtained from the published schemes, or the ticket venders, little surprise need be felt that many victims are drawn within its toils, and sacrificed to their own cupidity, or the avarice of the sellers, ere they become aware of the impending ruin.

“ A package of tickets is formed by combining all the numbers used to make the lottery, on one-third of that number of tickets; thus in a lottery of 66 numbers, there being 3 numbers on each ticket, it follows that 22 tickets can be made to contain all the numbers.

“ The combinations may be formed so as to bring in all the numbers on the proper number of tickets. Here follows the form of a package, by which the reader will be enabled to understand more fully our previous argu-



ment, on the advantage to the manager, when *high* numbers are drawn first from the wheel :

1 23 45	8 30 52	16 38 60
2 24 46	9 31 53	17 39 61
3 25 47	10 32 54	18 40 62
4 26 48	11 33 55	19 41 63
5 27 49	12 34 56	20 42 64
6 28 50	13 35 57	21 43 65
7 29 51	14 36 58	22 44 66
	15 37 59	

" This arrangement may be varied in a great many ways, viz. : by substituting the column beginning with 30 for the column beginning with 23—or with that which begins with 38—or changing the places of columns 60 and 52—or by transposing the figures in any one of the columns, or in all of them ; by which operation a sufficient number of packages will be formed to supply the demand for whole tickets, and it will be seen, that in no instance will a ticket begin with any number above 22.

This arrangement does not prevail so accurately among the packages of quarters ; there being generally a few which begin with higher numbers, but not enough to affect materially the chance in favor of the Managers.

" By turning to a register of Drawings, I find the following list of numbers drawn for Class 107, 6th Series, School Fund Lottery.

60. 51. 66. 46. 27. 47. 65. 44. 25. 9.



"Compare the package with the above numbers and let us note the result; the lowest prize in the scheme being \$5.

Ticket No. 2. 24. 46. has one drawn number on, and is a prize of	\$5.
Ticket No. 3. 25. 47. has two drawn numbers on, and is a prize of	10.
Ticket No. 5. 27. 49. has one drawn number on, and is a prize of	5.
Ticket No. 7. 29. 51. has one drawn number on, and is a prize of	5.
Ticket No. 9. 31. 53. has one drawn number on, and is a prize of	5.
Ticket No. 16. 38. 60. has one drawn number on, and is a prize of	5.
Ticket No. 21. 43. 65. has one drawn number on, and is a prize of	5.
Ticket No. 22. 44. 66. has two drawn numbers on, and is a prize of	10.

Total amount of prizes, \$50.

The remaining fourteen tickets are blanks. The package containing 22 tickets at \$5 each, cost \$110.

### CR.

By prizes \$50, gross, deduct 15 per cent. \$7.50

\$42 50

By loss to the purchasers, 67 50 \$110.



"And such will be the result as a general rule, on *eleven packages out of every twelve*, that can be bought in *any* lottery now before the public. The amount of loss will be a little less in some packages, as now and then a prize of 20 or 30 dollars may fall to the purchaser; but this happens so rarely as not to be an element in the calculation.

"The above package and list of drawing is not selected because it is favorable to the Managers, it is rather otherwise, as it contains two prizes of \$10 each. I could not frame a package containing the capital prize, because I have already shown that tickets with certain combinations are not printed, and therefore we have no business with things that do not exist. It is true that the three first drawn numbers, viz.: 51. 60. 66. is a regular combination, and would occur in some package; if all the tickets were printed. We can now understand the object of having the first numbers of the tickets that are printed *low*; because if the numbers which draw the capital prize happen to be higher than the lowest third of those used to make the lottery, there is of course no risk attending the capital prize, and what is more, when such a drawing occurs, there is no danger whatever, that any one of the highest prizes in the scheme can be drawn to a package constituted as this is. The only prizes exposed to be sold, are those in which the 10th drawn number (9) becomes one of a combination to which some of the smaller three-number prizes are assigned, and seldom



exceed in amount \$200, or in quantity, *six*. Tickets in such a lotttey, then, instead of being worth \$5 would be dear at fifty cents, and instead of having prizes of 20, 5, 3, 2 and 1 thousand dollars, have *in fact* no higher prizes than those which are exposed."

In further illustration of the subject the publisher includes the laws regulating lotteries, enacted in 1826-1830—and a specimen law creating the School Fund Lotteries.

#### AN ACT in relation to Lotteries, heretofore authorized by the General Assembly.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted*, that the managers of each and every lottery, granted or authorized by the General Assembly, since the first day of January, A. D. 1820, who have made or issued any class or scheme under their respective grants, be and they are hereby required to make report to the next session of this General Assembly, of the amount which they were respectively authorized by law, to raise by their respective lotteries, the amount of all the monies which have actually been raised by their said lotteries respectively, and by each and every class thereof, and the manner and terms on which such lotteries and the respective classes thereof have been sold or disposed of, and the persons to whom they have been so sold; and that said report may be made by all or a majority of the managers



of such lotteries respectively, and shall be sworn to by the persons making the same, before any judge, justice of the peace, or notary public.

**SEC. 2.** *And be it further enacted,* That if the managers of any or either of such lotteries, shall fail to make the report required by the first section of this act, the grant or authority to raise money by lottery, shall, as to the lotteries of which they are respectively managers, be thenceforth null and void.

**SEC. 3.** *And be it further enacted,* That no manager or managers of any lottery or lotteries authorized by law, shall, before the rising of this General Assembly, at the next session thereof, make or issue any new class or scheme of a lottery; and if any new class or scheme of such lottery shall be made or issued by such manager or managers, or agents, contrary to this act, the grant or authority to raise money by lottery, shall, as to the lottery or lotteries of which such persons are respectively managers, be null and void; and that the Secretary cause this act to be published immediately after the rising of this Assembly, at the present session thereof, for three weeks successively.

### AN ACT for the regulation of Lotteries.

**SECTION 1.** *Be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted,* That the managers of all lotteries hereafter granted, be and they are hereby



required before issuing any scheme thereon, to give bond with surety to the satisfaction of the General Treasurer in the sum prescribed in the respective grants, conditioned faithfully to execute their trust, and to comply with all acts of the General Assembly in relation to lotteries; and in case any lottery shall be sold the purchaser thereof shall give bond with surety as aforesaid, for the payment of the one per centum on each scheme of said lottery.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That upon issuing any scheme in any such lottery, the managers thereof shall commence a series of numbers of the classes therein, and continue the same in numerical order; and shall publish schemes of their respective classes in one or more of the newspapers printed in the town of Providence designating the particular object for which said lottery was granted, and also the authority by which it was granted. And all such lotteries shall be drawn within this State. And that each and every person who shall issue or draw, or be concerned in issuing or drawing, any class or scheme of any lottery, contrary to the provisions of this act, shall forfeit and pay the sum of five hundred dollars for each class or scheme so issued or drawn, to be sued for and recovered in an action of debt, by the General Treasurer, to and for the use of the State.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the State for the time being,



to superintend the drawing of the several classes in the lotteries aforesaid, and he shall, as soon as may be, report to the General Treasurer the name and scheme of the lottery, as well as the class and the fact of drawing; and the Treasurer shall thereupon issue his warrant of distress for the collection of the per centage due the State, according to the provisions of the act passed in June, 1827, entitled "An act in addition to the act entitled an act in relation to lotteries," unless the amount of said per centage shall be otherwise paid according to the true intent and meaning of said act.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the managers aforesaid shall give seasonable notice to the Secretary, of the time and place of drawing any such lottery, and furnish him with two certified copies of the schemes thereof, one to be kept on file, and the other to be by him sent to the Treasurer's office; and there shall be paid to the Secretary five dollars for each class so drawn, to be charged in the incidental expenses of the lottery. And in case the Secretary shall be unable to attend the drawing of any class as aforesaid, he shall be and he hereby is authorized to appoint a deputy therefor.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That no license to any person to transact business as a vender of foreign lottery tickets, granted by virtue of the act entitled "An act in relation to venders of foreign lottery tickets," shall authorize such person to sell or cause to be sold for him, such tickets, or parts or shares thereof in more than



one office or place of business, except successive in case of removal, within the term of such license. But the respective town councils may, under the provisions of said act, grant to the same person, upon paying the sums therein required, more than one license—that is to say, one for each place of business where he may wish to sell or cause to be sold on his account. And every person who shall so sell or cause to be sold as aforesaid in more than one office or place of business without license for each place—except as aforesaid—shall for each offence be liable to, and forfeit and pay the penalty in said act prescribed for selling such tickets, without license; to be recovered for the use of the State in manner as in said act provided.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary to give information to the Attorney General of all breaches of the laws in relation to lotteries in this State which shall come to his knowledge; and it shall be the duty of the Attorney General to prosecute for all such violations of law.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That all public acts in relation to lotteries which were in force on the 31st day of December last, be and they are hereby continued in force, so far as the same are not repugnant to the provisions of this act, and to the act passed at this session entitled "An act in amendment of the act entitled an act in relation to lotteries."



AN ACT to authorize Philip Case, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, to put forth a Lottery for the benefit of Public Schools.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly as follows :*

SECTION 1. Philip Case, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, are hereby authorized and empowered to make and set forth a lottery, upon such scheme or schemes, and in one or more class or classes as he or they may deem fit: such lottery to be under the management of one or more managers, to be approved by his excellency the Governor: who shall previous to issuing any scheme or class therein, give bond with sureties to the general treasurer and his successor, in the sum of fifty thousand dollars, conditioned to accept and comply with the provisions and requirements of this act; to pay all prizes which may be drawn in any class or scheme, and for which the state shall be in no wise responsible; to comply with all present existing acts in relation to lotteries, except such as are altered by this act, and also for the faithful execution of the trust: said bond to be approved by the Governor. And all schemes or classes in said lottery shall be numbered, published and drawn, under the superintendence of the secretary of state, as provided in and by the several public acts in relation to lotteries. And the



prizes in said lottery shall be equal to the whole amount of the tickets therein at the prices fixed in the schemes thereof and be subject to a deduction not exceeding fifteen per cent.

SEC. 2. The said manager or managers are hereby exempted from the payment of all duties or per centage which would by law accrue to the state on the scheme or schemes of said lottery, provided the said Philip Case or his assigns pay or cause to be paid into the general treasury for the benefit of the School Fund the amount prescribed in the following section hereof.

SEC. 3. The sum of nine thousand dollars annually, shall be paid into the general treasury in four equal quarterly payments in advance; commencing on the first Monday in April next.

SEC. 4. The general treasurer is hereby authorized at any time in his discretion, to require from the manager or managers a new bond, with other or additional sureties: subject to the conditions prescribed in the first section hereof.

SEC. 5. This act shall continue in force for the term of five years from the said first Monday in April next: *Provided, however,* if the said quarterly payment in advance as prescribed in the third section is not made; or if said manager or managers neglect to furnish a new bond as prescribed in the fourth section hereof, then no further proceedings in said lottery by said manager or managers, shall be had.



As a fitting end to this history the publisher adds two admirable papers written as protests against lotteries, by the late Professor William G. Goddard; the first in 1840, and the last in 1844. These papers crystalized public sentiment and resulted first, in the resolution of the General Assembly of 1840, which is printed in this Tract; second, in the constitutional prohibition; and lastly in the law of 1844.

“The undersigned citizens of Rhode Island have long regarded the lottery system with unqualified reprobation. They believe it to be a multiform social evil, which is obnoxious to the severest reprehension of the moralist, and which it is the duty of the legislator, in all cases, to visit with the most effective prohibitory sanctions. Entertaining these convictions, the undersigned memorialists cannot withhold them from the Hon. General Assembly of Rhode Island. They invoke the General Assembly to exercise their constitutional powers, promptly and decisively, for the correction of a long-continued, and wide spread, and pestilent social evil. They ask them, most respectfully and earnestly, to withdraw, as soon as may be, all legislative sanction of the lottery system, and to save Rhode Island from the enduring reproach of being among the last States to abandon that system. The memorialists beg leave to disclaim, in this matter, all personal or political considerations. They are seeking neither to help nor to hurt any political party. They contemplate no aggression upon the rights,



or the character of individuals. They are engaged in no impracticable scheme of moral reform. They have no fondness for popular agitation. They are, what they profess to be, citizens of Rhode Island, and it is only in the quality of citizens of Rhode Island that they now ask the General Assembly, to resort to the most operative penal enactments, for the entire suppression of a system which exists, and which can exist, only to disgrace the character of the State, and to injure both the morals and the interests of the people. The memorialists are persuaded that a commanding majority of the citizens of every political party entertain sentiments of decided hostility to all Lotteries. In praying, therefore, for legislative interposition, they feel that they are not in advance of public opinion, that they are not urging the General Assembly to anticipate public opinion, but only to embody it; to accelerate its salutary impulses, and to augment its healthful vigor. The constitutional power of the legislature to interfere in the premises being undisputed, the memorialists beg leave to submit for consideration, a few only of the many reasons which have forced upon their minds the conclusion that Rhode Island should lose no time and spare no effort in extirpating the Lottery system, a system which has already worked extensive evil within her borders;—which is repugnant to a cultivated moral sense; and which has been branded, both as illegal and immoral, by some of the most enlightened governments upon earth.



In this connection it should be stated, that England, and, it is believed, France likewise, have abandoned the lottery system. Some of the most populous and influential States in this Confederacy have abandoned it. Massachusetts has abandoned it; Pennsylvania has abandoned it; New York has abandoned it. Nay more, so hostile were the people of the latter State to the lottery system, that in revising its Constitution a few years since, they adopted a provision which prohibits the Legislature from ever making a lottery grant. These examples are adduced to show the progress of an enlightened public sentiment upon this subject, and to exhibit the grateful spectacle of governments, differently constituted, exercising their powers for the best interests of the people. The evils which the lottery system creates, and the evils which it exasperates, are so various and complicated, that the undersigned memorialists cannot attempt an enumeration. They are so revolting as to furnish no motive for rhetorical exaggeration. A few only of these evils, the undersigned memorialists will now proceed to mention.

1. Lotteries are liable to many of the strongest objections which can be alleged against gambling.—They have, thus far, escaped, it is true, the infamy of gambling, but they can plead no exemption from its malignant consequences. Like gambling, they are hostile, not to say fatal, to all composure of thought and sobriety of conduct. Like gambling, they inflame the imagination



of their victims and their dupes, with visions of ease, and affluence, and pleasure, destined never to be realized. Like gambling, they seduce men, especially the credulous and the unthinking, from the pursuits of regular industry, into the vortex of wild adventure and exasperated passions. Like gambling, they ultimately create a necessity for constant vicious excitement. Like gambling, they often lead to poverty and despair, to insanity and to suicide. Like gambling they furnish strong temptations to fraud, and theft, and drunkenness. Like gambling, they work, in but too many cases, a permanent deprivation of all moral principle and all moral habits. This fearful parallel might easily be extended. The picture here presented of the evils of Lotteries, however fearful it may seem, is not overdrawn. This picture will be owned as just, by many a bereaved widow and by many a forsaken wife, who trace all their woes to the temptations into which this *respectable* and legalized species of gambling had betrayed once affectionate husbands. It will be owned as just by many a child, who has been doomed perchance to a heritage of ignorance and poverty, by a father, for whose weak virtue the potent fascinations of the lottery were found too strong. In many respects, the lottery system may be deemed even more pernicious than ordinary gambling. It spreads a more accomplished snare—it is less offensive to decorum; it is less alarming to consciences which have not lost all sensitiveness; it numbers among



its participants multitudes of those who ought to blush and to tremble for thus hazarding their own virtue, and for thus corrupting the virtue of others; it draws within its charmed circle men and women who fill up every gradation of age, and character, and fortune.

2. The lottery system, as at present constituted, presents the strongest temptations to fraud on the part of all those who are concerned either in the drawing of lotteries or in the sale of tickets. It is not known that fraud has in any case been perpetrated, though fraud is suspected. If perpetrated, it would be no easy matter to detect it. The ignorant and the credulous men and women, who seek to better their fortunes by gambling in lottery tickets, know nothing of those mystical combinations of numbers, on which their fate is suspended. Utter strangers as they are to all the "business transactions" of the lottery system, if cheated at all, they are cheated without remedy.

3. The lottery system operates as a most oppressive tax upon the community. This tax is paid, not by the rich and luxurious — but it is paid, mainly by those who are struggling for independence, and by those who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow — by the servants in our kitchens — by clerks and apprentices, and day-laborers; by mechanics and traders; by the men and women who work in our factories; and, in too many instances, it is to be feared, by our hardy yeomanry, who, impatient of the slow profits of agriculture, vainly expect



from the chances of the lottery that which is never denied to the efforts of industry. The amount of pauperism and crime, of mental agitation and perchance of mental insanity, which the lottery system must create among these numerous classes, it would not be easy to calculate.

4. Lotteries are the parent of much of the pauperism which is to be found in this young, and free, and prosperous land. It entails poverty upon multitudes directly, by exhausting their limited means in abortive experiments to get rich by "high prizes"—and yet more, by withdrawing multitudes from a dependence on labor, and accustoming them to hope miracles of good fortune from chance. After repeated disappointments, they discover, when it is too late to profit from the discovery, how sadly they have been duped, and how recklessly they have abandoned their confidence in themselves, and in that gracious Being who never forsakes those who put their trust in him. They sink into despondency, and seeking to forget themselves, they bring upon their faculties the brutal stupor of intoxication, or they exhilarate them by its delirious gayety. Suicide is often the fearful issue. Dupin ascribes a hundred cases of suicide *annually* to the lottery system in the single city of Paris. Many years ago, a lottery scheme displaying splendid prizes, was formed in London. Adventures to a very large amount was the



consequence, and the night of the drawing was signalized by fifty cases of suicide !

5. Success in Lotteries is hardly less fatal than failure. The fortunate adventurer is never satisfied. He ventures again, and again, till ruin overtakes him. After all the tempting promises of wealth, which are made by those concerned in this iniquitous system, how very few, except managers of lotteries and venders of lottery tickets, has it ever made rich ; and well may it be asked, whom has it ever made more diligent in business, more contented, and respectable, and happy !

6. Lotteries, it is believed, are rendered especially mischievous in this country by the nature of our institutions, and by the spirit of the times. Here, the path to eminence being open to every one — but too many are morbidly anxious to improve their condition ; and by means too, which, in the wisdom of Providence, were never intended to command success. A mad desire for wealth pervades all classes — it feeds all minds with fantastic hopes ; it is hostile to all patient toil, and legitimate enterprise, and economical expenditure. It generates a spirit of reckless speculation ; it corrupts the simplicity of our tastes ; and, what is yet worse, it impairs not unfrequently, in reference to the transactions of business, the obligations of common honesty. Upon these elements of our social condition and character, the Lottery system operates with malignant efficacy.



## PROF. W. G. GODDARD'S SECOND MEMORIAL.

*To the Honorable General Assembly of the State of Rhode-Island:*

The undersigned, citizens of Rhode-Island, learn with surprise and regret, that a proposition has, within a few days, been made to the Honorable General Assembly, by a citizen of another State, which, should it be accepted, would entail upon the people of Rhode Island the complicated evils of the Lottery System.

The undersigned respectfully submit for your consideration, that whatever views may have been heretofore entertained as to the policy of encouraging lotteries, foreign or domestic, in this State, the people have settled this question by that Constitution which they have ordained as the supreme law, binding equally the legislature and the people.

The 4th Article of the Constitution of the State, which treats "Of the legislative power," provides as follows: "Section 1. This Constitution shall be the *supreme law of the State*, and any law inconsistent therewith shall be void. The General Assembly *shall pass all laws* necessary to carry this Constitution into effect." The 12th section of the same Article provides that "*All lotteries shall hereafter be prohibited in this State*, except those already authorised by the General Assembly."

If therefore our present laws are not sufficient to pro-



hibit *all* lotteries in this State, with the exception of those already granted, it is made the imperative duty of the General Assembly to provide such laws, with such penalties, in case of disobedience, as will carry this provision of the Constitution into effect. But if instead of passing such laws as may be necessary to prohibit all lotteries in this State, the General Assembly should pass an act to encourage the introduction and sale of foreign lottery tickets in this State, the undersigned believe that it would be a sin of omission and commission against the plain and explicit provisions of the Constitution.

Laws and Constitutions are to be so construed as may best carry into effect the intention of the Legislature which made the law, and the intention of the people which made the Constitution. This intent is to be collected from the words of the law or Constitution ; but if the words be dubious, the intent is to be collected by well known and established rules in Courts of justice, in the construction of laws and Constitutions. These rules are as obligatory upon the legislature in ascertaining the will of the people by the Constitution which they have made, as upon Courts in ascertaining the intent of the legislature, or the will of the people, when required to decide whether the law is in conformity with the Constitution.

“The most universal and effectual way of discovering the true meaning of a law,” (says Judge Blackstone,) “when words are dubious, is by considering the *reason*



and *spirit* of it, or the cause which moved the legislator to enact it." This rule of interpretation is more fully stated by Blackstone among the rules which he gives for the construction of statutes. "There are three points, he observes,) to be considered in the construction of all remedial statutes; the old law, the *mischief* and the *remedy*: that is, how the common law stood at the making of the act; what the mischief was for which the common law did not provide; and what remedy the parliament hath provided to cure this mischief. And it is the business of the Judges so to construe the act, as to *suppress the mischief, and advance the remedy.*"

Many of the people of this State have long complained of the evil of lotteries, and when the Constitution was formed, a provision was inserted which was intended to prevent this evil, and to take from the legislature the power of continuing this evil after the old grants had expired. Now the *intent* is not *dubious*, and if the language of the Constitution be *dubious*, it is the duty of the legislature so to construe this provision, as will "suppress the *mischief* and advance the *remedy*."

What is the mischief of lotteries? Is it the difference between a foreign and a domestic lottery? If it be so, we should think the mischief would rather belong to the *foreign* lottery than to the *domestic*. If we are to have lotteries among us at all, it is certainly better that they should be granted for objects which may be beneficial to ourselves, and that they should be regulated by



our own laws, so that no more frauds should be practised upon our citizens than the evil intended to be legalized.

But the mischief complained of and intended to be prevented by this provision of the Constitution, was not the *source* from whence the lottery emanated, but the sale of the tickets to the poor and ignorant, to the reckless and improvident, who, deluded by the prospect of gain, were bringing upon themselves greater poverty and ultimate destruction, and the encouragement thereby of a spirit of gambling fatal to all the pursuits of honest industry, and as injurious to the morals of the community, as to the permanent prosperity of the State. These were some of the evils which moved the people of this State to prohibit all lotteries by that supreme law which has taken away all legislative discretion upon this subject from the legislature. And these evils are equally attendant upon the sale of foreign lottery tickets, in this State, as of domestic lottery tickets — besides exposing our citizens to fraudulent practices by the conduct of those over whom we have no control.

It is admitted that this General Assembly have no power to authorize the sale of lottery tickets, connected with lotteries authorized by themselves and controlled by themselves, and it would be a very strange mode of interpretation which could give to this General Assembly the power to legalize the sale of lottery tickets emanating from the authorities of another State. This would be to give to the authority of a foreign legislature a greater



power than is possessed by the legislature of our own State.

But we do not see anything in this provision of the Constitution which could warrant such a construction, if we look only at the letter, much less if we only look at the spirit of the provision. To our minds the words of this provision are not dubious.

The words, "all lotteries," include foreign as well as domestic lotteries. If foreign lotteries are permitted in this State, or the sale of their tickets authorised, then "all lotteries will not be prohibited," and this plain provision of the Constitution will be nullified by the omnipotence of legislative construction.

If "all" does not mean *all*, we may as well say that it does not mean *any*, or we might with quite as much propriety say, that it means only *foreign* lotteries, as to say that it means only *domestic* lotteries. We believe that the Constitution requires the General Assembly to pass such laws as may prevent the sale of all lottery tickets, whether foreign or domestic.

When we have heretofore complained of the granting of lotteries by our own legislature, the apologists for the same have endeavored to reconcile us thereto by asserting that but a small portion of the tickets were sold in this State, and that we were deriving a revenue from the sale of the tickets in other States. This was not very satisfactory to those among us who believe that we are commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves, yet this poor



apology can no longer be used in favor of a law which would authorise the sale of foreign lottery tickets to our own citizens, by which they will be surrendered to the tender mercies of those who are beyond our control.

It is to be hoped that this General Assembly will not, to save the people from fair, honest and necessary taxation, attempt to obtain a revenue by exciting the spirit of gambling among the poor and ignorant, or by surrendering the families of the reckless, to citizens of other States to be plundered not only to the amount which they would pay this State, but of as much more as will ensure those profits which induce them to carry on such a demoralizing business, and which has been found so profitable to the vendors, but so ruinous to the purchasers of lottery tickets.

When it can be shown that the words "all lotteries," do not include foreign lotteries, and that the sale of foreign lottery tickets in this State may be authorised, and yet "all lotteries be prohibited," then may we believe that the letter of the Constitution does not prohibit the sale of foreign lottery tickets in this State; but we shall still believe that a law which shall authorize such sale of foreign lottery tickets, will be in violation of the *spirit* of the Constitution, which is to be obeyed rather than its letter, where they may seem to be at variance with each other.

If lotteries are beneficial to the State, let them be authorized and regulated by our own laws, and not by



the laws of other States. Let the Constitution be then amended in this respect, but so long as it remains as it is, let it be observed in its *spirit* and its *letter* unless we mean to render all written constitutions not only useless, but *contemptible*. Believing, however, that lotteries are most injurious to the State, and that the provision of the Constitution is most salutary and desirable, we pray that the Constitution may be administered in this, and all other respects, in the same spirit with which it was formed and adopted.

THE END.



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